

Britain's biggest and best saltwater magazine

www.seaangler.co.uk

ESTABLISHED
1972



Sea Angler

TURBOT TACTICS

THE KIT YOU
NEED FOR
SEPTEMBER
SHORE
POLLACK

£240
WORTH OF
PENN GEAR TO
BE WON

HOW TO CATCH GIANT FLATTIES

■ WHERE TO FISH ■ TACKLE ■ EXPERT ADVICE

EXPOSED
10 SECRETS
TOP ANGLERS
DON'T WANT
YOU TO
KNOW

**CIRCLE
HOOKS
FOR BASS**
THE EXPERT'S VERDICT

PLUS

SIX NEW SHORE AND BOAT VENUES TO FISH THIS WEEKEND



£4.50





KENZAKI BOAT RODS WHATEVER THE HEADING



A choice of sixteen Kenzaki boat rods that serve the UK's diverse mix of marks, species, techniques and line classes.



V-JOINT



WELCOME

ISSUE 613 SEPTEMBER 2022

Welcome to the September issue. Judging by your catch pictures and my own experience the record temperatures over recent weeks have coincided with a phenomenal summer of smoothhound fishing. The number of hounds being caught, and the range of your catches from across the country, make me think that the hound is becoming the backbone of UK summer angling from both the shore and afloat. My own experience is that of others; baits are unable to be honed in on by other species without a hungry hound getting there first! Not that I'm complaining; they fight hard, look stunning and are relatively easy to catch making them a popular target species for young, old, experienced and beginner alike. The warmer our sea temperatures get the more suitable the UK is likely to be for hounds and a whole range of other warm water species. We will have to adapt over coming decades but it doesn't mean sea angling will necessarily be any better or any worse – just different than what we have now. That means threats to traditional UK sea angling but also some exciting opportunities that anglers could take advantage of as we adapt to the way our climate is changing and our seas warming.

In this issue Joe Walker provides a fascinating look (page 10) at the fishing opportunities you might be missing in the few metres of water from the shoreline. It's easy to think that distance casting into deeper water is always where the fish will be found but, in many cases, as Joe points out, this simply isn't always the case. Open your eyes and have a look for yourself. I bet you'll be surprised by what you discover.

Chris Kennedy lifts the lid (page 28) on 10 secrets that many high-profile anglers would prefer you didn't know. We all know that social media can be both a blessing and a curse (more often the latter, unfortunately). Next time you feel inadequate comparing yourself against the catch success of some of the angling 'influencers' bear Chris' words in mind and give yourself a break.

Mike Thrussell talks turbot and brill on page 66 with where, when and how to target these most desirable flatfish in early autumn. One of my earliest sea fishing memories is fishing aboard Lady Helen out of Swansea in the mid 1990s with the gentleman fishing next to me reeling in dinner plate sized turbot. I've had a love affair with them ever since. If you haven't fished for them I hope Mike's advice will inspire you to give it a go. You may even find your own local mark where they haven't been found because no one has been targeting them. If that's the case, lucky you!

I mentioned in the last issue that Zziplex had announced the company would be closing down. Sea Angler readers are incredibly lucky in this issue to be able to read the excellent feature (page 99) by John Holden, a long-time friend of Terry Carroll, the man who started Zziplex. John's knowledge of Terry and the business explains a lot about why Zziplex was such an iconic brand and what its legacy will be. I sincerely hope you enjoy reading the piece as much as I did.

I'm delighted to say that after an enforced break, largely due to Covid supply chain issues, Dave Lewis is back out testing the best of the new boats on the market. This month we review the new H20 Hamble Dory (page 102), a well-designed and beautiful little British made boat that's perfect for estuary and inshore fishing, particularly in shallow water.

My congratulations to all those who competed in the SALC Home Nations shore championships in July. Danny Williams reports from Weymouth on the two-day event and you can find the results on page 108.

Don't miss the opportunity to win £240 worth of PENN boat fishing tackle and luggage in this month's competition (page 72). It's free and couldn't be easier to enter. One lucky reader will win and this month it could be you.

Finally, if you aren't a subscriber why not take advantage of our money saving offer, including a free gift, details of which you can find on page 104.

Until next month.

David

HOW TO CONTACT US: EDITORIAL

sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk

Editor

David Mitchell



Contributing Editor

Dave Lewis

Email: david.lewis21@hotmail.com

Design

Mark Hyde



Thanks to all our contributors in this issue: Bram Bokkers, Ian Bowell, Chris Clark, Henry Gilbey, John Holden, Jeff Jeeves, Chris Kennedy, Mike Ladle, Dave Lewis, James T Madsen, Mike Millman, Simon Smith, Mike Thrussell, Joe Walker, Danny Williams

Write to: Sea Angler, Kelsey Publishing Ltd, The Granary, Downs Court, Yalding Hill, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent, ME18 6AL.

ADVERTISING

Talk Media Sales (TMS)

David Lerpiniere, tel: 01732 445326

Email: david@talkmediasales.co.uk

Advert production: Nick Bond, tel: 01732 441281

Email: Nick.bond@talkmediasales.co.uk

CLASSIFIEDS Tel: 0906 802 0279

(premium rate line, operated by Talk Media Sales on behalf of Kelsey Publishing Ltd. Calls cost 65p per minute from a BT landline; other networks and mobiles may vary. Lines open Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm). Email: seaangler@kelseyclassifieds.co.uk

MARKETING

Subscription Marketing Director: Gill Lambert

Retail Director: Steve Brown

Senior Subs Marketing Manager: Nick McIntosh

Affiliate Marketing: Kate Chamberlain

PRODUCTION

Print production/distribution liaison manager:

Georgina Harris, email: georgina.harris@kelsey.co.uk

Print production controller:

Hayley Brown, email: hayley.brown@kelsey.co.uk

Printing: William Gibbons & Sons Ltd, Willenhall, West Midlands.

Distribution: Great Britain – Marketforce (UK), 2nd Floor, 5 Churchill Place, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5HU, tel: 020 3787 9001

Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland – Newspress, tel: +353 23 886 3850

MANAGEMENT

Chief Executive: Steve Wright

Chief Operating Officer: Phil Weeden

Publishing Director: Oswin Grady

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND BACK ISSUES

UK subscription and back issue order line: 0845 241 5159

Overseas subscription order line: 0044 (0) 1959 543 747

Toll free USA subscription orderline: 1-888-777-0275

UK customer service team: 01959 543 747

For customer service support, please visit: help.kelsey.co.uk

Customer service and subscription postal address: Sea Angler magazine, Customer Service Team, Kelsey Media, The Granary, Downs Court, Yalding Hill, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent, ME18 6AL

Current subscription offers: shop.kelsey.co.uk/

Subs website: shop.kelsey.co.uk/subscription/san

Back issues can be ordered here: shop.kelsey.co.uk/issue/SAN

■ Kelsey Media 2022 © all rights reserved. Kelsey Media is a trading name of Kelsey Publishing Ltd. Reproduction in whole or in part is forbidden except with permission in writing from the publishers. Note to contributors: articles submitted for consideration by the editor must be the original work of the author and not previously published. Where photographs are included, which are not the property of the contributor, permission to reproduce them must have been obtained from the owner of the copyright. The editor cannot guarantee a personal response to all letters and emails received.

The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the editor or the publisher. Kelsey Publishing Ltd accepts no liability for products and services offered by third parties.

Kelsey Media takes your personal data very seriously. For more information of our privacy policy, please visit <https://www.kelsey.co.uk/privacy-policy/>. If at any point you have any queries regarding Kelsey's data policy you can email our Data Protection Officer at dpo@kelsey.co.uk



KELSEYmedia

SHORE ANGLER

6 SMASH & CRAB TACTICS

Dave Lewis' expert advice on hunting specimen ballan wrasse using peeler crab.

10 LIFE ON THE EDGE

Don't ignore what's under your nose, or you'll miss out, as Joe Walker explains.

20 IN THE FRAME

Henry Gilbey's masterclass on composing eye-catching fishing photos.

28 10 SECRETS UNVEILED

Chris Kennedy exposes the secrets top anglers don't want you to know.

35 BACK TO BASICS

New to sea fishing? Bram Bokkers explains the importance of understanding tides.

WHERE TO FISH

38 MONMOUTH BEACH

Rough ground fishing from this popular tourist beach in Dorset.

40 LANNACOMBE BAY

The best of Devon's most southerly marks starting with this shore turbot venue.

42 TICKLED PINK

Simon Smith puts Porthcawl's Pink Bay in the spotlight.

44 ORFORD ISLAND

How about uptiding from the shore at this iconic East Anglian venue?

48 BURRY PORT

Dave Lewis explores the fishing opportunities on the Burry Inlet's north channel.

73 PORTISHEAD MARINA

Dave Lewis heads to Somerset to explore the upper reaches of the Bristol Channel.

CONTENTS



www.facebook.com/seaanglermag
@TheSeaAngler



Instagram
@seaanglermag

YOUR FISHING

50 RITES & RITUALS

Simon Smith recalls how fishing bonded a young lad and his grandad.

52 MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

The best of your specimen fish this month.

58 YOUNG RODS

Celebrating young sea anglers and their catches.



BOAT ANGLER

61 PASSAGE PLANNING

Dave Lewis explains the importance of a plan and how to avoid getting into trouble at sea.

66 TURBOT & BRILL

Mike Thrussell shares his expertise on how to find and target these sought-after XL flatties.

72 COMPETITION

Win a fantastic PENN boat fishing combo and accessories worth £240!

75 WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

Expert advice on how to stack the fishing odds in your favour.

80 BUCKET LIST

How to tackle and where to find this powerful tropical predator, the cobia.

ISSUE 613 SEPTEMBER 2022

ON SALE AUGUST 18TH – SEPTEMBER 15TH

SEA SCHOOL

82 Q&A

Your piscatorial puzzles solved by our team of saltwater sages!

MATCH FISHING

108 HOME NATIONS SHORE CHAMPS

Danny Williams reports back with the results and story of the SALC Home Nations.

111 PENN SEA LEAGUE

The results and leader board so far from the UK's largest shore match fishing competition.

114 WHAT'S ON

Upcoming matches for your competition calendar.

90



SUBSCRIBE TODAY
PAY JUST £22.99 FOR 6 ISSUES
PLUS GET A FREE GIFT SEE PAGE 104

20



92

TACKLE

89 THE DROP SHOT

How to tie and use this increasingly popular lure fishing rig.

90 CHANGING WEIGHTS

John Holden explains how choosing a more forgiving rod can help you match the conditions.

91 READER OFFER

Three great new money saving options to choose from.

92 FIRST LOOK

A selection of the newest gear and gizmos in the world of sea angling.

94 BOAT STORE

Garmin launch their new LiveScope XR live scanning sonar.

96 KIT YOU NEED

To target kelp-diving pollack from the rocks this autumn.

98 GOODBYE ZZIPLX

With the iconic brand ceasing production, John Holden looks back at the man behind the marque.

102 HAMBLE DORY – ON TEST

Dave Lewis tests the new British made H2O Hamble Dory.

105 BASS

Dr Mike Ladle investigates whether circle hooks really do catch more bass.



A specimen ballan
taken on crab



SMASH AND CRAB TACTICS

Fishing with bait is often the most effective way to target specimen sized ballan wrasse. Try using peeler or hardback crabs – and hold on tight!

If you are new to shore angling you might well think that the most efficient if not the only way to catch wrasse is to use soft plastic lures, as in recent years so much has been written about catching wrasse using these increasingly popular and undoubtedly effective techniques. While plenty of wrasse are caught on lures I would argue that if you are specifically looking to catch large wrasse, then it's best to leave your artificials at home and offer them something more flavoursome. I love fishing for wrasse, and my favourite way of catching wrasse is close range ledgering using bait. I like

nothing more than lobbing out a whole crab and waiting for the rod tip to slam over then having to pull as hard as I dare in order to extricate a beautifully coloured slab of muscle from its kelp and rock-strewn lair.

ON YOUR MARKS

Throughout the UK the most productive areas for big wrasse are found throughout the south and west, and especially the Channel Islands. You'll find exceptional wrasse fishing in Ireland, too, once again along the south and west coasts. ▶



A huge Irish wrasse from the rocks



Look for marks offering access to deep water more or less beneath the rod tip, ideally kelp filled gullies with depths greater than 20ft, which do not dry out over low water. Fishing directly above your terminal tackle gives you the very best chance of hooking and quickly extricating a fish from the worse of the snags, giving you a fighting chance of actually landing it. The further you need to cast away from the rocks, the more likely it is you will end up getting snagged and losing hooked fish.

TACKLE

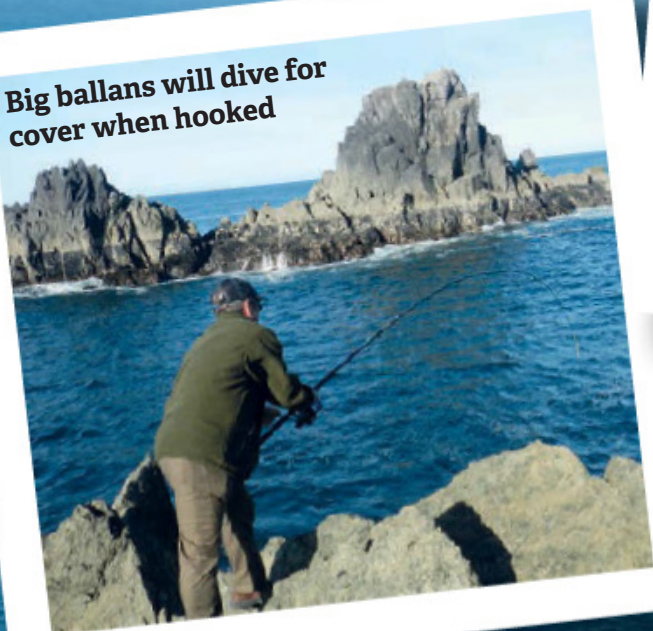
Rough ground wrasse fishing is not about finesse! Wrasse are dirty fighters and will retreat rapidly into heavy cover at the first opportunity. If you are going to stand any chance of landing even the smaller specimens when fishing over heavy ground, you need to use appropriate tackle. A typical bass rod rated at casting 2-4oz would be the minimum I'd use for wrasse but in many instances, such as when specifically targeting big wrasse, I'll use a heavier beach caster rated to



Nice wrasse, Terry!



Big ballans will dive for cover when hooked



cast up to 5oz. Apart from having the necessary backbone to bully wrasse away from cover, the additional leverage of an 11-13ft beach rod is a distinct advantage. Most reels appropriate for beach fishing will be suitable, but those with a high rate of retrieve offer a further advantage in helping keeping hooked wrasse from getting snagged.

Clearly tackle losses are inevitable when fishing for wrasse, so you must be prepared to lose numerous rigs per session. Pretty much any rig will work for wrasse, but it's hard to beat a simple single hook paternoster. I use 30-50lb monofilament to tie a simple stand off loop a couple of feet above the lead, to which I attach a short 6-8in hooklength, once again using 30lb monofilament. Use longer than this to tie your hook lengths and you greatly increase the chances of a wrasse grabbing a bait and retreating into a crevice in the rocks, or ending up with line wrapped around thick fronds of kelp. The hooklength should terminate in a strong, sharp and preferably short shanked size 2/0 to 4/0 hook. I find that a session fishing for wrasse is the perfect opportunity to clear my rig wallet of all of the old and previously used traces with rusted hooks and corroded swivels; wrasse fishing is good for that!

Deep water rock marks that don't dry out at low water are ideal locations to find wrasse



Crab is the number one bait for the big ballans



Use bait elastic to whip the crab onto the hook

BAIT

Both lugworm and ragworm are excellent wrasse baits, but while worm will catch plenty of fish it's a bait that tends to catch mostly smaller fish. Crab is the ultimate bait for big wrasse. I like to use, but you certainly do not need, prime peeler crab to catch wrasse, as hard backs work very well. Certainly if you are looking to catch a large number of fish then peeler crab is the ultimate

bait. One advantage with using peeler crab is that you can tightly lash bite size chunks onto the bend of the hook, ensuring the point of the hook is left exposed, and far more likely to find a hook hold when a wrasse hits it with their classic smash and grab style. Most wrasse specialists will confirm that hardback crabs are the number one bait for the largest specimens.

TACTICS

It is essential to hold your rod when wrasse fishing. Keep the tip low, so that you are in position the second a fish hits a bait to make a full upward sweep of the rod to bully it into open water. And you had better have tightened the clutch on your reel; this is no pretty fishing! Wrasse bites are not subtle, but the initial bite from even very big fish can at first feel insignificant. I have found that gently starting to lift the rod the instant a bite is detected can induce a fish to fully grab a bait, with the added advantage that at this point it will be heading towards open water.

One important tip when fishing rough ground is to cast and let the rig sink swiftly to the bottom, and then leave it there. Do not be tempted to move it 'just a little bit' to see if it is snagged. If you do and it wasn't, then it probably will be after you have dragged it along the bottom. The first time you attempt to move a rig should be when you have a bite.

Given the open exposure of many areas where wrasse are found, never be tempted to fish exposed, remote rock marks whenever an onshore swell. Be extra careful if fishing after high tide or rain, when the rocks will be as slippery as ice. If you fancy a session of simple, productive and extremely exciting shore-based fishing then you'll not do better than fishing a rock mark for wrasse, with bait. ■



LIFE ON THE EDGE

Whatever your style of fishing Joe Walker explains how distance is not always king when it comes to casting. Take a look at what's right in front of you. The result might be a revelation and a whole new approach to your fishing





First off, this article is written from the perspective of a saltwater fly angler, but that's only because the lessons I learned were learned through the necessity of that angling discipline. The fact is that as a veteran beach angler before that, I'd been missing a trick. A big one. And what I learned when I picked up the fly rod is something I wish I'd known long before. So whether you're a 'swffer' or not, consider the following.

If you've come to saltwater fly fishing from another angling discipline, particularly the beach-casting fraternity, like I did, you may be likely to make an immediate assumption that the key to success will be getting your fly way out into the deepest water possible. Makes sense; the bigger fish are further out, right? Why else would I have spent all those years expending so much effort to propel baits 150m out from the shore if that wasn't the case.

Either way, there's a tendency to look to the zone you might consider to be the furthest you could possibly cast to as being the one that'll be most productive.

At this point I sense many novice or aspiring saltwater fly or lure anglers reading this and immediately feeling raised anxiety levels: "Hang on... exactly how far out are we talking here? My fly line is only 30m long as it is, and a third of that hasn't seen the light of day since I wound it on! Will I have to learn the dreaded 'double haul' I've heard about? What if I can't! What if I have all the grace and coordination of a stack of broom handles being dropped down a flight of concrete stairs? What if, to cut to the point, I can't reach those fish?" In complete contrast, many of

the seasoned beach anglers will simply be nodding sagely, and wondering why anyone would even question that.

LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE

Before deciding to take up saltwater flyfishing, which now takes up the majority of my available angling time, I had in fact spent the previous 25 years fishing by walloping baits out from the water's edge in sheltered estuaries, pounding surf beaches, imposing rocky outcrops and surging shingle banks. I'd mastered a reasonable pendulum cast in order to reach those distant specimen fish I craved, and you know what? I became pretty good at it. I refined my gear, stayed in tune with the latest technologies in rods and reels, practiced casting regularly and I caught a plenty of fish. On the marks I fished, it was all about distance. Distance, distance, distance.

The first inkling that it might not be was when I became friends with a talented angler and writer in the early 1990s by the name of Richard Stapley. Long-time readers will know the name straight away - Richard was a bank manager by day, a columnist for Sea Angler magazine in the evening and, every other waking moment, a superb and highly successful beach and boat fisherman. ►

Before pumping your bait into the horizon think about what's under your nose

Beach anglers are notoriously tight-lipped about their marks, but Richard was more generous than most, and one day while out on a boat fishing trip with him he told me he'd reveal one of his most closely guarded bass fishing secrets. And so, huddled over a bucket of rather pungent, defrosting squid, he spilled the beans.

A few weeks later, following his explicit instructions, I turned up at a particular beach-side car park on a dark, frosty early-November evening with my mate Steve, and crunched across the ice-encrusted shingle to a shallow and unremarkable bay. Following Richard's advice, I set up a beachcaster and heaved my bait out. Within minutes, the rod tip was twitching and I pulled in two small 6in whiting. Steve filled a bucket with water and I dropped the fish in. Next, I tackled up a second rod and presented the little whiting as a live-bait.

Whilst I was used to this on a boat where the bait was dropped, wiggling enticingly, straight over the side, there was obviously no way I would be able to pendulum cast that out 120m – nobody wants to arrive at their beach hut in spring to find a broken window and the inside redecorated by a ballistic member of the cod family. So, stifling doubts about the veracity of the advice I'd been given, I walked to the almost-entirely-still water's edge and, contrary to every fibre of my accrued beach fishing instincts, held the rod out horizontally and simply dropped the live-bait into the water.

As I quietly paced back to the rod-rest and stood the rod in it, I remember thinking "Really? That water's surely only a few inches deep... that's ridiculous!". Steve shrugged, and chewing our lips and sitting on our numb hands, we waited in the freezing darkness perhaps a whole 20 minutes before the rod slammed over and the ratchet on the reel screeched in alarm. A large bass had engulfed the bait quite literally 8ft from the water's edge. And it wasn't a one-off; twice more that evening the reel sang as unseen monsters stealthily patrolled the very margins of their world. It was nothing short of a revelation.

Wind the clock forward to my first forays with a fly rod, and even though it was still difficult to do I began to tear my eyes away from the horizon and start paying proper attention to what was immediately in front of me. I had to. Having been conditioned to aim for the horizon for all those years, I suddenly found myself looking for success at the end of a mere 25 metres of line, because that's all a pretty normal cast with a fly rod will get you.

Of course, though I was looking at this through the lens of necessity with a fly rod in hand the fact is nothing says we have to cast baits as far as possible either, and what I learned could just as easily turn a tough session into a memorable one for any angler who takes the same approach and adapts his or her gear accordingly.

RULE NO. 1

Find fish! At the risk of repeating myself from other articles aimed at those starting down the salt water fly fishing route, the most valuable way to spend your time prior to wetting a line in anger is just to go and watch your proposed marks, preferably at different stages of the tide cycle if you can.

Bass will patrol the margins looking for prey within feet of the shore – pin whiting make a great live-bait



Take a few steps backwards and spend a couple of minutes surveying the scene - can you see any fish moving?



Make sure you scope out all the water in front of you for activity. If you're new to it, it'll take a while to spot fish activity at times, as it may be subtle – the odd glint or flash below the surface, perhaps a set of ripples going in a different direction to those around it, or dark moving shadows on a pale sandy bottom. In time you'll 'get your eye in' (good polarizing sunglasses are essential). Of course, at other times it'll be completely downright obvious.

So, let's assume you found the fish and jump back to that distance preoccupation. While it's entirely true that the better you are at casting, the more choices you might have to reach fish in challenging conditions (and you should certainly aspire to learn and hone those skills), it's nonetheless also true that if you know your marks and you take time to find and study where the fish are feeding, a little savvy in your approach can mean you'll do just fine at super-close quarters.

Obviously there are many fish-holding locations where the water is shallow and safe enough to be able to wade. Just make sure that you know that both those factors are just so... don't take chances in unfamiliar locations!

If you're fly or super-light tackle fishing, viable wading helps in two ways; if you can see fish then depending on the conditions, currents and water-depth, you may firstly have a degree of flexibility ▶

“A large bass had engulfed the bait quite literally 8ft from the water's edge. And it wasn't a one-off; twice more that evening, the reel sang as unseen monsters stealthily patrolled the very margins of their world. It was nothing short of a revelation”

Don't be surprised if you find fish in only six inches of water



SHIMANO



ULTEGRA 14000 XSE

Feel it, Believe it

Enhance your performance with the new **ULTEGRA XSE**.

No matter how tough, or seemingly impossible the challenge, **ULTEGRA XSE** delivers time and time again.

Pick one up and you will instantly feel the lightness and strength of the C14+ Body. Turn the handle and experience the combined smoothness and power of the HAGANE GEAR. Watch the precision of Super Slow Oscillation as the line lays perfectly on the spool. And be amazed as you reach casting distances beyond your expectations.

The new **ULTEGRA XSE - FEEL IT, BELIEVE IT.**



over the direction you approach the fish from and secondly, if you're very careful, how close you can get to them. That means even if you can't whip out a 25 yard cast into a force 4 headwind with a fly rod, all is not lost. It may be possible to get to within 10 metres or less, or get the wind behind you (or both!). With ultra-light tackle or bait, it also means more accurate placement – it's all about upping the odds so putting your offering where you know the fish are is a no-brainer.

RULE NO.2

Don't go crashing in; take some time to just stand and watch. I've seen many opportunities ruined by unobservant anglers who blundered straight into shoals without even realizing they were there, and then moaned about the lack of fish.

If you can see fish moving, then let your eyes wander further afield in every direction over the water. Establish the extremities of the shoal. Often there are way more fish present than you at first realise – wading in too close without being sure could well spook the entire shoal and leave you back at square one.

Once you've established as best you can where all the fish are, consider your approach. Crucially for fluff-chuckers, where is that annoying wind coming from? What about currents and wave direction? What's happening with the tide? (Really important both from the fishing and safety perspectives). What about other factors – floating weed, perhaps?

A quick assessment will allow you to formulate a sensible plan of attack that will give you the best chance of getting your flies, spinners or small-bait

amongst the fish. Give the shoal a very wide berth to be sure, and make your approach quietly and patiently from some distance away. Don't get any nearer than you feel you absolutely have to – the closer you get, the greater the risk of spooking them.

Fly fishing gives a natural advantage in skinny water as delivering a fly makes little disturbance in the water. Weights for legered bait will make way more. If you're going to fish a bait, perhaps a small bunch of harbour rag, this is split-shot territory; just enough weight to get the cast out at short range without disturbing the fish. Fish as light as you possibly can. The added advantage is you'll amplify the sport element hugely too.

Now let's remember those bass from earlier – and this is the real crux of this article... It genuinely comes as a huge surprise to most anglers just how ridiculously close to the edge of the water many fish do actually feed. I'm talking within a few feet of dry land, sometimes inches.

I was taken bass fishing by Matt Powell in Pembrokeshire a few years back. Matt is a Michelin Star trained chef and an excellent bass fishing guide, though his new restaurant Annwyn now demands all his time. Yet again he challenged my perceptions about where I'd find fish. Yes, the plugs were sent out with a good whack, but on the very last part of the retrieve, Matt advocated slowing to lure to a crawl and then just holding it in the backwash at the edge of the rocks, almost at our feet, letting just the waves bring the lure to life. Many of his best fish had hit lures in the last few feet before a re-cast. Sure enough he was right and I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it. ►

**Never underestimate
how shallow flounder
will feed**



The simple fact is that food gets washed up against the edges by wind, tide and currents, and it concentrates there, whether its baitfish, shrimp, whatever. If that's consistent, then you'll very likely find the fish that feed on it there too. As long as there's enough water to give the fish access and an escape route, the chances are they will consider it worth the risk. In the case of those big South Coast bass, darkness provided the cover they needed, but many fish will happily come right in during broad daylight, though low-light conditions like dawn and dusk can often yield the best results.

Both mullet and bass will patrol the margins in water barely deep enough to cover their backs and often, to the casual observer, with barely a ripple to reveal their presence. Of course, with your newly acquired fish-spotting super-powers, you do know they're there. So how do you approach it? You could (and indeed often have to) simply stay right back from the water's edge and literally cast your offering just into the water in the feeding zone. With a fly rod, often you'll need to be on your knees to stay low and get as close as you can without being seen. It's not easy, but it can be highly effective. Other times, it requires a different approach.

Let's put together a scenario. You're standing on several miles of gently sloping, open, sandy surf beach facing the sea. There's a fairly big surf running and a horrible, brisk on-shore breeze coming in diagonally from right to left – a right-handed fly angler's worst nightmare. The tide is flooding. Looking along the beach there are a number of large, shallow depressions in the sand. Mullet are in the surf, but you've been struggling like heck for several hours to get casts out to them in the breeze and tumbling waves, and even when you have, the rough water is cloudy with sand and algae.

GAME PLAN

Well, you can keep casting until your shoulder socket disintegrates or take a few minutes out to consider what may happen in 15 or 20 minutes time.

Often the shoal will be moving with the 'longshore drift' – the direction of the tide and or waves. In this instance, looking out to sea, they're moving from right to left. They're going to move into a channel that runs around a sandbar and into the large depression behind. Wait and watch. In the rough surf, the sandbar acts as a barrier so the water beginning to fill the depression behind via the channel is calm and clearer. Sure enough you spot a little movement and then see fins and tails break the surface and begin moving around. As the current runs in, it pushes food hard up against the very edge of the water, helped by the stiff onshore breeze.

At this point you could retreat back from the waters edge, kneel down some way back and creep forward to close the gap and try to get a short range cast in (against the breeze) to the very margins.

Keeping well back, walk back along the shore a way and once you're sure all the fish have moved into the depression, approach from the sand-



Use the lightest possible lead to minimise disturbance in shallow water

bar itself (or even behind it in the surf tables). This puts the shore... and the fish... squarely in front of you and crucially, the wind at your back. This makes it hugely easier to get a clean presentation from much further away without battling the surging surf and belligerent breeze, and the improved clarity of the water increases the chances of your fly or perhaps mepps spinner being seen and snaffled by an inquisitive mullet.

BACK TO SHORE

This is casting 'back to shore' and it's a really viable and useful approach, especially in windy 'onshore' conditions. Because those fish are hunting at the very edge of the water, on shallow

Trying to cast as far as you can makes sense until you realise you could be casting over the fish

beaches there's often room to carefully position yourself outside of the shoal and take an easier shot from the seaward side of them.

I used that scenario because that's an exact recount of the conditions I faced during a session on a surf beach in late September. It had been really hard work; the fish (mostly mullet) were mostly preoccupied with algae froth in the surging surf tables and the water was extremely dirty. The strong onshore breeze and tumbling wave tables had meant a battle with tangles and line management all afternoon, adding to the frustration. But a little time taken out to assess the situation and look down the beach for alternative approaches paid off hugely.

As the fish moved into the large depression and started showing literally a foot or two from the edge in the calm water, I seized the chance to get behind them, put the wind at my back and cast back to shore.

Within 15 minutes I'd lost one and managed to land two, the first of which was an absolute monster of a thin-lip, well over 60cm, which gave me one heck of a scrap.

I was shocked, as I'd assumed these fish were golden grey mullet of perhaps 2lb max, so shallow was the water they were moving in. To net a fish three times that weight was astonishing.

Even after 15 years, it never fails to amaze me what lurks so unbelievably close to the boundary between sea and land. So if you're setting foot onto the beach with light tackle or a flyrod in hand, don't look wistfully to the horizon and waste time thinking "If only I could cast out there". Just hang back and consider life on the edge. Sooner or later, it's really going to surprise you! ■



NEXT DAY DELIVERY

Order before 2.30pm Monday to Friday & get your order **NEXT DAY** (Sat extra).

POSTAL ADDRESS

Uttings Ltd
PO Box 672, Norwich, NR3 2ZR

VISION SALTWATER RODS, REELS & LURES

Merisuola
Graphene Saltwater Fly Rod
Tested all over the world by sailfish, tarpon, permit, jacks, bonefish, pike, seatrout etc

Length	RRP	Now
9ft #6	£899.99	See website
9ft #7	£899.99	See website
9ft #8	£899.99	See website
9ft #9	£899.99	See website
9ft #10	£949.99	See website
9ft #12	£949.99	See website

Merisuola Saltwater Reels
These bigger reels are aimed at heavy salmon and saltwater use. #7/8 #8/9 #9/10 #10/12
RRP £399.99 to £499.99

Merisuola Fly Line
Designed for harsh saltwater environments and big, strong, fast fish. WF6, WF7, WF8, WF9, WF10, WF12
RRP £89.99 **£79.99**

Scott SALTWATER FLY RODS

Scott Fly Rod Company introduces the all new Sector series of high performance, hand crafted saltwater fly rods.

Sector rods advance on Scott's award-winning Meridian series to bring you a new level of performance and reliability in saltwater fly rods.

Length	Weight	Pieces	Price
8ft 4in	#10 #13 #15	3 Piece	£929
8ft 4in	#6 #8	4 Piece	
8ft 10in	#7 #8 #9 #10 #11 #12	2 Piece	
9ft	#6 #7 #8 #9 #10 #11 #12	4 Piece	

The Sector New Zealand Special has been developed specifically for chucking everything required to catch trout in gin-clear water and cramped conditions - whether it be nymph rigs, big dry flies - or even streamers. A tireless allrounder!
9ft #6 4 Piece **£929**

G. Loomis SALTWATER FLY

UK APPOINTED DEALER

ASQUITH

Built on Shimano's proprietary Spiral X platform, the Asquith boasts superb power transfer from tip to hand, quick recovery, and increased sensitivity.

Model	Length	Weight	Pieces	Price
ASQ 890	9ft	#7 #8	4 Piece	£899.99
ASQ 1090	9ft	#9 #10	4 Piece	£899.99
ASQ 1290	9ft	#11 #12	4 Piece	£999.99

NRX+

Empowers anglers with confidence-boosting control in less-than-ideal situations.

Model	Length	Weight	Pieces	Price
NRX+ S 790 / 890 / 990	9ft	#7 #8 #9	4 Piece	£799.99
NRX+ S 1090	9ft	#10	4 Piece	£799.99
NRX+ S 1290	9ft	#12	4 Piece	£799.99
NRX+ 10810-2	8ft 10"	#10	2 Piece	£799.99
NRX+ 12810-2	8ft 10"	#12	2 Piece	£799.99

REDINGTON GRANDE FLY REELS

Welcome the new heavyweight champion...

The Redington GRANDE reel is a fully anodized, machined aluminum reel that features a new sealed SUPER-TORQUE carbon drag system that will KO any fish you hook. After years of field testing, Redington built up the GRANDE with an oversized palmeling rim, increased backing capacity, and designed an easy to locate handle and drag knob so you can make quick adjustments in the heat of the battle.

Model	Price
GRANDE BLACK	from £299.99
GRANDE MARINE	from £299.99
GRANDE CHAMPAGNE	from £299.99

SCIENTIFIC ANGLERS 3 GREAT SALTWATER FLY LINES FOR 2022

Amplitude Smooth Infinity Saltwater IFTD Best Of Show Winner 2020 - Saltwater Fly Line. The go-to line for all saltwater species. Made half size heavy turns over large flies on windy days.
£119.99

Mastery Saltwater From dry-fly purists to tarpon-chasing poon hounds, the Mastery Series from SA provides every angler the lines they need to catch the fish they crave.
£79.99

Frequency Saltwater The Frequency Saltwater is a great all-around compound saltwater taper designed to load rods quickly and cut through the wind.
£59.99

RIO PRODUCTS DESTINATION FLY LINES

Ultra powerful, easy casting lines built for exceptionally long casts with ultra-slick performance

Model	Price
Premier Tarpon Quickshooter Camo / Ivory	RRP £99.99 £89.99
Premier Bonefish Quickshooter Floating Aqua Blue / Sand	RRP £99.99 £89.99
Elite Tropical Outbound Short Floating Dark Sand / Blue	RRP £129.99 £119.99
Elite Tropical Outbound Short Floating / Intermediate Clear / Dark Sand / Blue	RRP £129.99 £119.99
Elite Tropical Outbound Short Intermediate Clear / Grey / Trans Blue	RRP £129.99 £119.99
Tropical Outbound Short Intermediate/Sips/Tips Black / Trans Blue	RRP £129.99 £119.99

SEE FULL DETAILS AND SPECIFICATIONS ON OUR WEBSITE

Snowbee WADERS 2022

Model	Price
Prestige STX Studded Felt Sole Bootfoot Waders	RRP £339 £269
Prestige STX Stockingfoot Waders	RRP £299 £239
Classic Neoprene Stockingfoot Chest Waders 4mm neoprene - Light Olive	RRP £149.99 £119
Classic Neoprene Cleated Bootfoot Chest Waders 4mm neoprene - Light Olive	RRP £159.99 £125
Classic Neoprene Studded Felt Sole Bootfoot Chest Waders 4mm neoprene	RRP £179.99 £139
Ranger2 Breathable Stockingfoot Chest Waders	RRP £219 £179
Ranger2 Breathable Bootfoot Chest Waders	RRP £229 £189

UK BASS & DESTINATION FLY TACKLE

VISION SALTWATER FLY RODS, REEL & LINE

MERI SALTWATER FLY RODS
Meri rods are especially targeted at coastal fishing. These rods have a powerful progressive action with a fast recovery speed which makes them a real joy to cast.
9ft #6 #7 #8 #9
RRP £489.99 **£449.99**

XLV MUST SALTWATER FLY REEL
Ideal for lighter saltwater use as it takes good amount of thin backing with a #7 weight Merisuola flyline.
#7/8 - RRP £229.99 **£199.99**

MERIFISHING NET
Lightweight aluminum frame, short 24cm handle and 50cm deep rubber net.
RRP £34.99 **£29.99**

MERI FLY LINES
A series of lines designed for coastal fishing
RRP £89.99 **£74.99**

Also Recommended
RIO Coldwater Fly Line

VISION Vibe 65 Fly Line

Snowbee SALTWATER RODS & REELS

SPECTRE RMX SALTWATER 4PC
With the ever increasing popularity of Saltwater Bass, Bonefish, Carp & Pike fly fishing, the "Saltwater Predator" model is top of the Spectre range.
RRP £249 **£199**

PRESTIGE G-XS SW SALTWATER
The most powerful in the saltwater series, yet still deceptively light and easy to cast.
9ft #7 - 4 Piece
RRP £549 **£499**
Also available in #8 & #10

XS FLY REELS
The first choice for the best of saltwater Bonefish, Jacks, Permit and smaller Tarpon, or Bass & Pollock.
#7/9 #9/11 - from **£239** #9/10 #10/11 - from **£145**

SPECTRE FLY REELS
Ultra-lightweight, precision CNC machined aluminum reels for a better rod/reel balance

5 GREAT BASS FISHING OUTFITS

Snowbee Classic Kit 10ft
The perfect rod for bass and sea-trout applications.
#7 - **£145**

Snowbee Classic Saltwater Kit 10ft
Designed exclusively with the more powerful saltwater and predatory fish in mind.
#8 - **£145**

Vision Fis 2 Outfit 9ft
Ready to fish kits with a slick & supple standard weight forward fly line, backing & leader pre-spooled.
#5 #6 #7 - RRP £219.99 **£199.99**

Vision Fis 2 Outfit 9ft 6in
Ready to fish kits with a slick & supple standard weight forward fly line, backing & leader pre-spooled.
#7 - RRP £219.99 **£199.99**

GUIDELINE Laxa Saltwater Fly Fishing Outfit
Crisp medium-fast action rod. Pre-loaded reel.
#7 - RRP £274.99 **£199**

See website for full details and specifications

WATERWORKS SALTWATER LAMSON FLY REELS

UK BASS

LIQUID
A pressure cast reel boasting full radius compound curves, near zero-radius inside corners and 100% U.S. drag components.
-5+...£99
-7+...£109

GURU S-SERIES
Setting a standard for enlightened excellence as a rugged, fully USA-machined, and ultra-reliable reel at a great price.
-7+...£289
-9+...£299

GURU S-SERIES HD
Steadfast and stylish, Guru has long set a standard as a rugged, fully USA-machined, and ultra-reliable reel.
-7+...£329
-9+...£349

BLUE WATER

LITESPEED MARINE
With hybrid drag system.
#8 #10 #12...£549

COBALT
Cobalt is a big game powerhouse of a reel.
#6 #8 #10 #12...£599

COBALT HD
The HD version is a heavy-duty, full frame reel.
#8 #10 #12...£699

Snowbee GEO-S SPECIAL OFFER

These are a range of reels, with which the world's fly fishers could take on the best that the largest rivers and widest oceans could throw at them... and win!

Model	RRP	Now
Geo-S Fly Reel #810	£375	£169
Geo-S Fly Reel #1012	£395	£189

Spare Spool - £149

Maui Jim FISHING GLASSES 2022

+1.50 +2.00 +2.50

Makaha Reader
Maui Jim Makaha Reader Polarised Sunglasses are stylish, flexible, lightweight and saltwater resistant. Features 3 magnifying bifocal lens options for close up reading. Provides UV protection.
Makaha Reader +1.50, +2.00 or +2.50 **£195**

Ho'okipa Reader
Maui Jim Ho'okipa Reader Polarised Sunglasses are stylish, flexible, lightweight and saltwater resistant. Features 3 magnifying bifocal lens options for close up reading. Provides UV protection.
Ho'okipa Reader +1.50, +2.00 or +2.50 **£195**

SIMMS TRIBUTARY STOCKINGFOOT WADERS

Waders with a durable, breathable 3- and 4-layer build for all-day dry, comfortable performance at a great value.

Model	Price
Simms G4Z Fishing Waders Stockingfoot	Men's...£199 Women's...£199 Kid's...£139
Simms G4 PRO Fishing Waders Stockingfoot	Slate £799
Simms Freestone Z Fishing Waders Stockingfoot Darkgunmetal	£419
Simms Freestone Fishing Waders Stockingfoot Darkgunmetal	£349

SAVE £99 Add a pair of Freestone WADING BOOTS with these waders for only £80 (RRP £179) BUY THE 3 TOGETHER FOR £429 (RRP £528)



ORDER ONLINE www.uttings.co.uk

NEXT DAY DELIVERY

Order before 2.30pm Monday to Friday & get your order **NEXT DAY** (Sat extra).

POSTAL ADDRESS

Uttings Ltd
PO Box 672, Norwich, NR3 2ZR

anyfish anywhere™ **Blue Label Range**

These rods offer exceptional performance both in terms of casting and fishing at a price point that makes them very accessible.

four&bait rod mk2

Surfcasting Rods

Length	Spool	RRP	PRICE
13ft	3-Soz Fixed Spool	£205	£179.99
13ft	3-Soz Multiplier	£205	£179.99
14ft	3-Soz Fixed Spool	£215	£189.99
14ft	3-Soz Multiplier	£215	£189.99

six&bait rod mk2

Surfcasting Rods

Length	Spool	RRP	PRICE
13ft	5-7oz Fixed Spool	£235	£199.99
13ft	5-7oz Multiplier	£235	£199.99
14ft	5-7oz Fixed Spool	£245	£199.99
14ft	5-7oz Multiplier	£245	£199.99
15ft	5-7oz Fixed Spool	£255	£209.99
15ft	5-7oz Multiplier	£255	£209.99

SONIK VADERXS SHORE RODS **NEW 2022 MODEL**

Unbeatable performance for the price. Available in three lengths to cover most shore fishing applications, the blanks are well balanced with a progressive casting action and excellent bite registration.

Length	Spool	RRP	PRICE
12'	4-6oz - 2 Piece	£74.99	
13'	4-6oz - 2 Piece	£79.99	
14'	4-6oz - 2 Piece	£84.99	
15'	4-6oz - 2 Piece	£89.99	

SKSBLACK SHORE RODS **NEW 2022 MODEL**

Featuring upgraded more powerful yet lighter blanks from its SKS Shore Rod predecessor that will suit every casting ability easily, each rod is individually tailored to offer the perfect 'all round' actions, which mean they are as effective on clean ground as they are in heavy terrain.

Length	Spool	RRP	PRICE
11'6"	4-6oz - Multiplier / Fixed Spool	£89.99	
13'	4-6oz - Multiplier / Fixed Spool	£119.99	
14'	5-7oz - Multiplier / Fixed Spool	£129.99	

SHIMANO SURF RODS

Fishing rods for beach fishing

ALIVIO BX Tubular Tip Surf Rods

- Fast action composite blank
- Excellent combination of distance casting performance and value for money
- Shimano anti-tangle stainless steel Hardlite guides
- Shimano DPS-type reel seat

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
13ft 11in	Tubular 225g	£59.99	£49.99
14ft 9in	Tubular 225g	£69.99	£54.99

VENGEANCE - Surf / Rough Ground Rods

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
14ft	Tubular Fixed 225g	£99.99	£84.99
14ft	Gin Tubular Fixed 225g	£104.99	£89.99
14ft	Solid Fixed 225g	£99.99	£79.99
14ft	Gin Solid Fixed 225g	£104.99	£84.99

NEXAVE - Surf Rods

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
13ft	Tubular - Lite 120g	£134.99	£89
13ft	Tubular - Rough 225g	£139.99	£99

Surf Rods

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
14ft	Tubular Plate 225g	SOLD OUT	
14ft	Gin Tubular Screw 225g	SOLD OUT	
14ft	Solid Plate 225g	SOLD OUT	
14ft	Gin Solid Screw 225g	£139.99	£89

SHIMANO SURFCASTING REELS

Aerflex 10000XB Surf Casting Reel RRP £94.99 **£69.99**

Speedmaster 14000XSC Reel RRP £129.99 **£99.99**

Ultragra XSD 5500 Surf Reel / Big Pit Reel RRP £154.99 **£129.99**

Ultragra 14000 XSD Reel RRP £174.99 **£119**

Ultragra XSE 14000 Reel **£179.99**

Ultragra C14+ 14000 XSC Reel RRP £279.99 **£229.99**

SHIMANO BASS RODS FOR 2022

VENGEANCE CX SEA BASS RODS

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
9ft	6-28g 2 Piece	£149.99	
9ft 6in	8-42g 2 Piece	£159.99	

BASTERRA BASS RODS

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
8ft LRF	3-15g 2 Piece	£49.99	
7ft 2in LRF	1-11g 2 Piece	£44.99	
8ft	6-28g 2 Piece	£64.99	
9ft	7-30g 12-38g 2 Piece	£69.99	
9ft 6in	15-60g 2 Piece	£74.99	

LUNAMIS BASS RODS

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
8ft 6in	6-25g 2 Piece	£299.99	
9ft	5-21g 6-25g 2 Piece	£299.99	
9ft 6in	7-35g 10-45g 2 Piece	£329.99	

BLUE ROMANCE ULTRA POWERGAME SALTWATER SPINNING RODS

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
8ft	40-100g 2 Piece	£299.99	
9ft	40-100g 2 Piece	£309.99	
10ft	40-100g 2 Piece	£329.99	

DIALUNA BASS RODS

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
8ft	3-21g 2 Piece	£229.99	
9ft	6-32g 2 Piece	£229.99	
9ft 6in	6-28g 2 Piece	£229.99	
10ft	8-45g 2 Piece	£229.99	
10ft 6in	10-56g 2 Piece	£229.99	

SHIMANO SALTWATER LURE REELS

SOCORRO 4 MODELS from **£94.99**

STRADIC C14+ 2 MODELS from **£154.99**

STRADIC FL 11 MODELS from **£154.99**

SPHEROS SW 3 MODELS from **£94.99**

SPHEROS SW-A 8 MODELS from **£164.99**

ULTEGRA FC 10 MODELS from **£124.99**

SARAGOSA SW-A 8 MODELS from **£179.99**

SHIMANO SALTWATER LURE REELS

VANFORD 13 MODELS from **£179.99**

VANQUISH 9 MODELS from **£369.99**

STELLA FK 14 MODELS from **£599.99**

TWIN POWER FD 11 MODELS from **£299.99**

TWIN POWER XDFA 6 MODELS from **£334.99**

TWIN POWER SW-C 11 MODELS from **£349.99**

STELLA SW-C 14 MODELS from **£679.99**

G. Iommis BASS LURE RODS

UK APPROVED DEALER

IMX-PRO MAG BASS CASTING RODS

Bass casting rods designed for anglers that prefer the "Classic" Mag Bass actions. Full cork grips and Fuji reel seats with Fuji K-frame guides provide positive grip and balance along with positive control. Incredible performance means extreme sensitivity, ultra-light weight, excellent balance and unbelievable power and strength!

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
IMX Pro Mag Bass 6ft 6in	7-18g 1 Piece	£289.99	
IMX Pro Mag Bass 6ft 6in	7-21g 1 Piece	£289.99	

IMX-PRO BASS SPINNING JIG RODS

Bass spinning rods designed for anglers that prefer the "Classic" Spin Jig actions. Full cork grips and Fuji reel seats with Fuji K-frame guides provide positive grip and balance along with positive control. Incredible performance means extreme sensitivity, ultra-light weight, excellent balance and unbelievable power and strength!

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
IMX Pro Mag Bass 6ft 2-9g	1 Piece	£289.99	
IMX Pro Mag Bass 7ft 4-10g	1 Piece	£289.99	

anyfish anywhere™ NEW FOR 2022

PRO RED LABEL SERIES

The worlds first truly Professional standard beach fishing rods

Grand Prix Pro Mk2

This new slimmed down version is lighter by about 3oz's and has a 24mm butt + Reducer.

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
Multiplier 13ft 10in	Casts 4-7oz (150-200g)	£550	£469.99

Estuary Rods MK2

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
11ft	Casts 30-100g	£220	£189.99
12ft	Casts 30-100g	£225	£189.99

Tournament GBFS Pro MK2

Fixed Spool 14ft + Reducer

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
Casts 4-8oz (112-225g)		£525	£459.99

Tournament Match Pro MK2

Multiplier 13ft 11in + Reducer

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
Casts 4-7oz (125-200g)		£525	£469.99

Bass Pro Mk1

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
12ft 6in	100-175g	£325	

SONIK GRAVITY X5HT

Unground carbon finish at rod joints makes it easier to take apart after use

- White hollow carbon tip for easy bite detection in poor light conditions
- Fuji corrosion control frames provide 7 times more corrosion resistance
- Shrink wrap on the lower handle to improve grip whilst casting
- Super lightweight high modulus carbon blank
- X5 multi-directional nanofibre tip section lay-up
- Fuji Alconite K Series guides
- Fuji DPS reel fitting

It's an absolutely fantastic shore rod

The ultimate power is utterly immense and evident during the casting process

Paul Fenech - Sea Angler review issue 566 Jan/Feb '19

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
14ft	5-7oz - 2 Piece	£329.99	£249.99
15ft 4in	4-8oz - 3 Piece	£349.99	£259.99

A true all rounder...

SHIMANO SURF RODS

Fishing rods for beach fishing

SPEEDMASTER Lite Rod + 2 Tips

- High Modulus Full Carbon + HPC blank with Nanosheet technology produces lighter, stronger blank with increased responsiveness & casting distance
- Fuji Fastlite K Type anti-tangle guides
- Fuji DPS reel seat
- Ultra sensitive solid tip design
- Extra fast action for increased tip speed when casting

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
13ft 120g / 4.25oz		£194.99	£129

SPEEDMASTER - BXG Surf Rods

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
14ft	Tubular 225g	£204.99	£139
14ft	Solid 225g	£204.99	£139
14ft	Hybrid 225g	£204.99	£139
14ft 6in	Tubular 225g	£214.99	£149
14ft 6in	Solid 225g	£214.99	£149
14ft 6in	Hybrid 225g	£214.99	£149

SPEEDMASTER - Beach Rods

High Modulus Full Carbon + HPC blank with Nanosheet technology produces lighter, stronger blank with increased responsiveness and casting distance.

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
14ft 9in	Solid + 3 Tips 120g / 4oz	£214.99	£139
15ft 5in	Solid 150g / 6oz	£214.99	£115

SHIMANO SURFCASTING REELS

Surfleader C14+ Reel RRP £284.99 **£214.99**

Power Aero 14000 XSB Reel RRP £379.99 **£319.99**

Fliegen 35SD Reel RRP £419.99 **£369.99**

Bull's Eye 9120 Surf Reel RRP £379.99 **£349.99**

Bull's Eye 9100 Surf Reel RRP £379.99 **£349.99**

Aero Technium Mg5 XSD 14000 Reel **NEW FOR 2022 £619.99**

YAMAHA BASS LURE RODS

Fishing rods for sea bass fishing

Sandstorm Bass Spinning Rods

- Premium Carbon Blanks
- Fixed Spool DPS Reel Seat
- Seaguide Deep Drawn Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Ring
- Split EVA Grip Handle

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
11ft 6in 28-84g		£120	from £99

SALTIST - Bass Spinning Rods

- HVF High Volume Fibre
- X4S Technology

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
8ft	10-35g	£170	£139
8ft 6in	10-35g	£175	£145
9ft	10-35g	£180	£149

SALTIST - Spinning Rods

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
10ft	14-60g	£145	£119
11ft 6in 28-84g		£150	£125

Whisker - Bass Spinning Rods

Designed to cover the multitude of fishing styles, across lure and bait with monofil or braid

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
8ft	Medium-Heavy 5-40g	£170	£137.99
9ft	Medium-Heavy 10-40g	£180	£141.99
10ft	Heavy 10-60g	£190	£151.99
11ft	Heavy 10-60g	£200	£159.99

YAMAHA KENZAKI

"Nothing short of superb"

Sea Angler Review, June 2019

Read the review by **DAVID BARHAM** on our website

Super Kenzaki FS (Fixed Spool) Boat Rod

6-12lb, 6-15lb, 12-20lb, 15-25lb, 20-30lb or 30-50lb

7', 7'6" or 8'

RRP £180 **£139.99**

BG Magsealed Spinning Reel

7 Models - RRP £180-£225 from **£139.99**

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

SAVAGE GEAR

Mads and Henry have done an incredible job, not just creating the rods but crafting an entire range of product positioned specifically for the UK and Ireland's army of bass anglers.

Richard Taylor, boss of Svendsen

SAVAGE V2 SINKING LURES

New lure designed by Henry Gilbey

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
12cm	22g 2+1	£5.99	
14cm	33g 2+1	£6.99	
15.5cm	46g 2+1	£7.99	
17.5cm	65g 2+1	£8.99	
11.5cm	22g 2+1 Weedless	£6.99	
13cm	31g 2+1 Weedless	£7.99	

Svendsen teams up with Henry Gilbey & Mads Grossell...

Henry Gilbey & Mads Grossell have designed this amazing range of Bass rods, one of the most highly anticipated launches of 2021. Thousands of hours of testing & casting lures from the shore in various conditions have gone into the development of these rods & lures.

SG55 PRECISION LURE SPECIALIST RODS

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
SG55 9ft	9-35g 2 Piece	£174.99	£119.99
SG55 9ft 6in	9-35g 2 Piece	£179.99	£124.99
SG55 9ft 6in	12-46g 2 Piece	£189.99	£134.99

SG58 PRECISION LURE SPECIALIST RODS

Length	Spool	RRP	NOW
SG58 9ft	9-35g 2 Piece	£349.99	£229.99
SG58 9ft 2in	9-35g 2 Piece	£359.99	£249.99
SG58 9ft 6in	9-35g 2 Piece	£369.99	£249.99
SG58 9ft 6in	12-46g 2 Piece	£379.99	£249.99

Watch the Henry Gilbey Video

AKIOS

A VERSATILE DUO... IN ONE!

- SENSITIVE HYBRID TIP OR POWER TIP

ENDURANCE PRO RS2

3 PIECE (Plus extra tip section)
4.26m/14ft • 112-225g/4-8oz

Specifically designed for the modern shore angler that demands versatility without compromising on performance, the dual tipped AKIOS ENDURANCE PRO is built around a high modulus HMX40T carbon blank that generates a remarkable amount of casting power.

DUAL TIP

RRP £269.99 **£229.99**

AKIOS

UTOPIA SX 420

CONTINENTAL ROD

3 PIECE • 4.2m/14ft • 112-225g/4-8oz

- HIGH MODULUS 40T CARBON BLANK
- PHOSPHORESCENT GLOW TIP
- FUJI REEL SEAT & FUJI KWAG GUIDES
- CASTING WEIGHT 4-8oz / 112-225g

The Akios UTOPIA is a superb all-rounder combining plentiful power, fast recovery, lightness and bite detection. The phosphorescent glow-in-the-dark tip is a godsend during night sessions. The tip slowly emits light energy absorbed from a headlight ensuring sight of tip action whether or not direct light is present.

POWER PRO

What Dreams Are Made Of

RRP £329.99 **£239.99**

AKIOS

THE TORQUE OF THE BEACH!

AIRTORQUE 435

3 PIECE • CARBON CONSTRUCTION
4.35m/14.5ft • 110-220g/4-8oz

WHEN EXTRA POWER IS NEEDED

The new Akios AIRTORQUE is set to be a big hit, offering even greater power and greater casting potential than the Airspeed. The AIRTORQUE, with its higher modulus HMX 43T carbon construction, offers 20% more power through the butt, middle and lower tip section, giving extra power during casting and quicker line pick up giving faster hook penetration.

RRP £399.99 **£299.99**

AKIOS

THE BEST JUST GOT EVEN BETTER...

AIRSPPEED SURF 435 MKII BLACK EDITION

CONTINENTAL • 3 PIECE • 4.35m/14.5ft
112-225g/4-8oz

Striking looks that will turn the heads of envious anglers right along the beach, but more importantly, the outstanding casting performance will enable baits to be sent out further and cover a wider expanse of ground than ever before.

RRP £379.99 **£339.99**

AKIOS

YOU CAN TAME 'THE BEAST'

AIRPOWER RXP SRS 435

CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE • 4.35m/14ft 6in • 120-225g/4-8oz

Now With Sliding Reel Seat Ideal For Fixed Spool And Multipliers. It Allows The Angler to Position The Reel High Or Low On The Rod

Arguably the most powerful three-piece continental style rod on the market, the AKIOS AIRPOWER has been designed with one thing in mind, to offer EXTREME casting capabilities. With its insanely powerful high modulus HMX46T carbon construction, progressive action and lightning fast recovery, the AIRPOWER sets new standards for modern three-piece rods.

RRP £439.99 **£339.99**

See the video on our site

AKIOS

LIGHT YEARS AHEAD!

• HYBRID TIP

MOMENTUM SLR

CONTINENTAL ROD • 3 PIECE

The Akios MOMENTUM SLR is a new breed of ultra-lightweight match rods for the very finest quality from AKIOS. Weighing in at just 445g, the MOMENTUM 425 SLR has been designed for modern match anglers seeking to send baits out over very long distances. The smooth actioned, progressively powerful blank aids in preserving delicate baits during hard casting, while the power mesh carbon butt section offers the power reserves needed to send larger baits and leads out over vast distances.

RRP £429.99 **£379.99**

14' 4.2m - 100-180g (4-6oz) £429.99 **£379.99**
15' 4.6m - 100-180g (4-6oz) £429.99 **£379.99**

AKIOS

WHEN DISTANCE MATTERS

SHUTTLE

6 Models - from £189.99

A forward thinking company based in the UK. Developed by anglers for anglers who demand new, innovative and durable fishing tackle.

NITRON F-15 £199.99
S-LINE 5 Models - from £129.99
TOURNO 3 Models - from £219.99
DYNAMO 2 Models - from £79.99

AKIOS

SURFCASTING REELS

Fishing reels for beach fishing

Fury FX8 Fixed spool reel RRP £74.99 **£64.99**
Fireloop Fixed spool reel RRP £109.99 **£89.99**
The Guvnor GUV GX8 Fixed spool surf reel RRP £149.99 **£89**
Air Loop R8 / R10 Long cast fixed spool reel R8 - RRP £146.99 **£124.99**
10 - RRP £154.99 **£134.99**
Utopia CX8 / SX8 Fixed spool reel CX8 - RRP £129.99 **£109.99**
SX8 - RRP £169.99 **£134.99**
Ironloop AK100 Fixed spool reel RRP £229.99 **£199**

AKIOS

SURF RODS

Fishing rods for beach fishing

SEAHUNTER Z - Surf Rods

- DPS Style fixed reel seat
- Ring spacing for fixed spool
- Premium grade carbon blanks
- Ergonomic shaped EVA rear grip
- Stainless frame guides with oxide rings

RRP NOW

11ft Bass Travel Rod	2-4oz	£95	£75
11ft 6in Bass	2-4oz	£85	£65
12ft Fixed / Multiplier	3-7oz	£105	£75
13ft Fixed / Multiplier	3-7oz	£110	£79
14ft Fixed Spool	3-7oz	£115	£89

CROSSCAST 33 - Surf Rods

Designed for distance beach work with a big fixed spool, over clean to medium ground. The built in carbon Hybrid Tip, ensures bite detection across the species mix, especially where smaller 'match winning' fish matter.

RRP NOW

13ft 10in Hybrid Tip	100-225g	£115	£79
14ft 10in Hybrid Tip	100-225g	£130	£89

SANDSTORM - Surf Rods

- Premium Carbon Blanks • Fuji BRC Butt Cap
- Split EVA Grip Handle • Sliding DPS Reel Seat
- SEAGUIDE Deep Drawn Frame Guides with Aluminium Oxide Ring

RRP NOW

12ft 6in Multiplier	100-200g	£170	£119
13ft 6in Multiplier	100-200g	£180	£135
14ft 2in Multiplier	100-200g	£183	£129
12ft 6in Fixed Spool	100-200g	£170	£119
13ft 6in Fixed Spool	100-200g	£180	£135

AKIOS

SURF RODS

Fishing rods for beach fishing

AIR SURF - Surf Rods

- SVF and X45
- Mega Top Carbon Hybrid Tip
- Guides: Fuji K Guide with Alconite (Multiplier)
- Guides: Fuji LC with Alconite (Fixed Spool)

RRP NOW

13ft 6in Multiplier	2 Piece 4-8oz	£490	£349
14ft 2in Multiplier	2 Piece 4-8oz	£515	£369
15ft 3in Fixed Spool	3 Piece 3-7oz	£535	£389

SALTIST - Surf Rods

RRP NOW

12ft 6in Multiplier	100-200g	£220	£169
13ft 6in Multiplier	100-200g	£245	£189
14ft 2in Multiplier	100-200g	£250	£189
14ft Fixed Spool	84-150g	£265	£179
14ft Fixed Spool Hybrid 3-6oz		£255	£179
15ft Fixed Spool Hybrid 3-6oz		£280	£189

TOURNAMENT - PRO Surf Rods

RRP NOW

11ft 6in Bass Fixed Spool	1-3oz	£260	See
13ft 6in Multiplier	3-7oz	£339	Website
14ft 2in Multiplier	4-8oz	£359	

TOURNAMENT - HT Surf Rods

RRP NOW

14ft Fixed Spool Hybrid 3-6oz	£325	£259
15ft Fixed Spool Hybrid 3-6oz	£345	£379

AKIOS

MULTIPLIER SURF REELS

Fishing reels for beach fishing

7HT Millionaire Tournament RRP £215 **£149.99**
7HT Millionaire Mag RRP £385 **£269.99**
7HT Millionaire Mag Super Tuned RRP £375 **£399.99**
SL20SH Sealine Sloop RRP £130 **£89.99**
SL30SH Sealine Sloop RRP £130 **£89.99**

AKIOS

SURF REELS for 2022

Fishing reels for beach fishing

Shorecast - 5000B Fixed spool surf reel RRP £94.99 **£79.99**
Shorecast - 6000B Fixed spool surf reel RRP £94.99 **£79.99**
35 SCW 5000C QD Surf reel RRP £110 **£89.99**
20 Crosscast Surf 45 SCW 5000C QD Surf reel RRP £140 **£109.99**
19 Emblem Surf 45 SCW QD Surfcasting reel RRP £190 **£159.99**
20 T Basia 45 SCW 5000C QD Surf reel RRP £790 **£639**

FINISH LEURRES

Choice of over 100 Finish Lures on our website

BLACK EEL NEW for 2020
Khaki and Cloudy White with 40g lead head

BLACK MINNOW
Khaki, Blue and Gold / Blue 140 and 120 with lead heads of 40g and 25g

We also stock Candy Shrimp, Crazy Paddle Tail, Crazy Sand Eel, Mud Digger Accessories

See the 4 VIDEOS on our website

FINISH LEURRES

Candy Shrimp
MUD DIGGER
CRAZY SAND EEL
CRAZY SAND EEL

SAVAGE GEAR

BASS LURES

Working with Henry Gilbey, Savage have produced an amazing new range of soft plastics. - Read his blog on our website

Gravity Stick Mini Kit 12cm 13g - 7 Colours - **£9.99**

Gravity Stick Puddletail Bass Lure - 14cm 15g - 6pcce RRP £9.99 **£5.99**

Gravity Stick Puddletail Bass Lure - 14cm 15g - 6pcce RRP £9.99 **£5.99**

Gravity Stick Pintail Bass Lure - 14cm 15g - 6pcce RRP £9.99 **£5.99**

Rattle & Spike Kit 1.9g 6-6pcce - RRP £7.49 **£6.49**

Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10cm 30g Sinking RRP £6.69 **£4.99**

Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10.5cm 35g Sinking RRP £6.69 **£4.99**

Surf Seeker Bass Lure 10cm 30g RRP £6.69 **£4.99**

#6/0 Weedless Hooks 6pcce - RRP £6.99 **£5.99**
3g - 4pcce - RRP £6.99 **£5.99**

SHIMANO

EXSENCE SHALLOW ASSASSIN FLASH BOOST LURES

Aan innovative jerkbait that is equipped with a unique 'Flash Boost' feature, making this lure a one-of-a-kind for inshore spinning for seabass and bluefish. Flash Boost feature increases 'flash' from the lure even when stationary. Equipped with AR-C system for increased casting distance and accuracy Floating - diving depth 0.3m

T00 Maiwashi 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**
T03 Red Head 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**
T04 Candy 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**
T01 Bora 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**
T05 Purple 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**
T06 Black 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**
T07 Green Gold 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**
T02 Katakuchi 9.9cm - 14g - **£16.99**



A crashing wave fills
the frame of the photo

IN THE FRAME

Henry Gilbey introduces how to compose your fishing photos and grab the attention of your viewer by using these pro hints and tips

Using a natural feature to lead your eye to the angler



Last month we had a look at how we might slow down a bit and start thinking more about the fishing photos we want to take. So now let's take that further and start dialling into composition, or the makeup of the actual photo. I hope you have been playing around a bit and not just standing there and shooting away at eye-level all the time. I also hope you have noticed how changing the angle or position at which you take a picture can really "grab" you when you scroll through your camera roll - but what about how we might use the elements in front of us to help make an interesting photograph? How do we combine the angler and all that sea and sky or rocks and sand and waves and so on into a photo that people want to look at?

SUBCONSCIOUS

We need to think about how our eyes look at a photo. You might think you just look at a photo, and in many obvious respects you do, but a photograph which makes you stop and look that bit harder most likely contains various elements which literally lead your eye into the main subject without you even realising that it has happened. It's not some weird thing which only photographers know about, but if I showed you say five photos of the same face in the same light and shot in the same way, but one face had eyes that were out of focus, I can guarantee you that your eyes would fly straight by the photo with the out of focus eyes. We don't know it, but we look for sharp eyes in those kinds of photos, just as we

“What might look relatively normal to you might look quite extraordinary to somebody who has never been fishing, or who fishes in a different part of the country or the world”

are drawn to good light or crashing waves or an angler casting or a big fish, of course.

In many respects we have it pretty easy with the photography of fishing, or at least we do when it comes to the subject matter. We are all anglers and we tend to like looking at photos of fish or people fishing, so the simple act of including a fish or an angler in a photo is already drawing the eyes of an angler to take a look. This, though, doesn't hide the fact that a bad photo is a bad photo, rather that we have a good base to work from on which we can think about the composition.

Photography is an art form, and unless you only shoot with a 50mm lens which is accepted as the field of view our eyes see then I would argue that most photographs are concerned with trying to create something visually interesting in a way which somebody else might not have seen. An angler standing on a rock with a beautiful sky behind them might be an everyday thing to many of us who go fishing a lot, but when did the sea conditions and light ever look exactly the same two days in a row? When did another fish ever look quite the same as the one before? ►



**Fishing the Zambezi
with elephants**



What might look relatively normal to you might look quite extraordinary to somebody who has never been fishing, or who fishes in a different part of the country or indeed the world. Some photos I shot of a fly angler fishing for tigerfish on the Zambezi River in Africa with a herd of elephants behind him might look pretty normal to anglers in some parts of Africa for example, but when did you ever see anything like that? And when did those anglers who are more used to herds of elephants in the background ever see crashing waves onto a lonely coastline in the middle of a northern hemisphere autumn? All things are relative when it comes to photography, and I would urge you to never take anything for granted.

FRAMING

So let's imagine your mate is fishing away and you think that the overall scene might make for an interesting photo. Remember last month's advice before we go any further, but now think about how you might literally "grab" the eyes of the viewer (why else are you taking photos if you don't want anybody else to see them?). Whether

you are using a mobile phone or proper cameras and different lenses like me, have a look through the viewfinder or at the screen on your phone - that is the frame, or rather that is what space you have to fill with something interesting. With a mobile phone and a fixed lens, move closer to fill the frame with more good stuff, or move further back for a wider field of view. Some of the more expensive mobile phones have multiple lenses which can make life even easier again, but I would strongly advise against just standing there and pinching in to zoom closer because unless your phone has different lenses you are losing a lot of image quality.

Think about that frame or view and how we are going to cause the eye of the viewer to look at what we are shooting. We often fish in some stunning looking locations, and when the light is good I like nothing more than looking at what is in front of me like a landscape shot, but with an angler in it. People sometimes ask me what sort of photographer I actually am, so in many respects I think of myself as a landscape or indeed seascape photographer, but because I love fishing I am more often than not putting a human element in there.





Natural features
can be used to help
draw the eye in



Composing your
photo and framing
the image is key

LOOK FOR THE POINT OF INTEREST

And that human element also lends a sense of scale to the framing. With lovely light you can very easily compose a photo so that the angler is pretty small in the frame, where you are allowing the sheer majesty of light and location to do the talking. Correspondingly when the light isn't very exciting I would suggest moving in closer to the angler or carry on fishing yourself and get your phone or camera out if and when things look better. The one advantage we do have with saltwater lure fishing especially, is that the sea is often moving in an interesting way, and those waves or a stretch of coastline or the details on a lure can often provide another point of interest to a photo. A grey day can look pretty good if there are waves crashing around for example.

LEADING LINES

Have a think about what are often called leading lines, or the way in which we can use natural features to help draw the eye into a photograph. As much as I think I am shooting landscapes or seascapes a lot of the time, in fact my point of interest in the photo is basically the angler, so how can I better lead your eye into my photograph without you even realising? If, like we discussed last month, you get down low to shoot up at your mate, you are already causing the viewer to look into your photo, but once again I would urge you to take a bit of time and look around.

Could you use a handy gully to lead the eye into where your mate is fishing for example? Getting down a bit lower and framing the angler against an impressive looking sky tends to be pretty powerful as it is, so bearing in mind that we want the angler to so often be the focal point of the photo, firstly he or she needs to be in focus,

and secondly, try to be conscious of not "losing" your mate in a background. We often wear fairly dark clothing for our fishing and this can result in an angler almost merging into, say, a rocky background if you are not careful. Again though, we have the ability to move around and better compose the photo so that this doesn't happen.

FILL THE FRAME

Don't be afraid to fill the frame by the way. If the light and seascape look good I do love to shoot wide angle photos when I can, but it takes a technically good photo to retain interest when everything is so small within the frame. I would urge you to think about using all that lovely space within the frame and filling it up with interesting stuff more often than not. Don't be lazy and fire away and simply crop your photos down later on. The more you crop, the more pixels you lose, which will harm how good your photos can look if you ever come to print them at a decent size or use them in a photo book. Does the angler you are photographing need to look like they are miles away and the eye soon loses interest because you haven't filled the frame with enough to hold it?

Note that I have not yet talked about photographing the fish that you or your mates might catch, because that is a big subject on its own and we will get to it soon. You also need to note that I shoot a lot of fishing photos and I would never try to claim that they are all amazing photos – not at all in fact!

I often need to take a particular photograph because it helps to illustrate something within an article I might write, but I can assure you that I still get horribly overexcited when every single thing comes together to be able to shoot an awesome photo. Fishing is no different to photography; sometimes it happens and sometimes it doesn't. When it does come together, think about that frame and what you can do within it. ■



*Camera Shown OM-System OMD-EM5 MK III

***Never Miss
A Catch
with***

HC

HARRISON CAMERAS



OM-SYSTEM
12-200mm F3.-5.6
D M.ZUIKO



OM-SYSTEM
12-40mm 2.8
PRO MK II M.ZUIKO

HARRISONCAMERAS.CO.UK

112-114 London Road, Sheffield, S2 4LR. Customer service open 9am-5pm
Mon-Fri - 0114 2859854

CATCH MORE FISH



SeaAngler Guides



VISIT [SHOP.KELSEY.CO.UK/SAG](https://shop.kelsey.co.uk/sag)
OR CALL 01959 543 747 AND QUOTE SAG



TOP 10 SECRETS FAMOUS ANGLERS DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW

Chris Kennedy lifts the lid and reveals the truth behind the success of many high-profile anglers and explains how you can use these tactics to improve your own fishing

Like all sports, sea angling has a dominance hierarchy; a group of people that have risen to the top of the sport and are widely accepted to be the best. There is a phenomenon called the Pareto distribution, or 80/20 rule, which says that 20 per cent will be more productive and successful than the other 80 per cent put together. This law or rule applies to art, music, economics, sports and most other areas of life. Since the invention of forums and social media, we now know who these people are and what they catch regularly.

Most of us are not fortunate enough to be born into a situation where we have a family member who can offer us expert tutelage on how to be the best angler on the scene. Understanding how the best fishermen in the sport can achieve such

remarkable or consistent results is often a mystery. We rack our brains about how it's done, often spending many hours reading forums, blogs, magazines and books to try to better understand how we can improve. The frustrating part is that the answers aren't often there, no matter how hard we look.

The reason such answers aren't easily obtained, or common knowledge, is because if such knowledge were out there, it would level the playing field. The truth is that many of the country's best anglers don't share such information, as it can be replicated, and it would ultimately give them more competition, making their success less remarkable. In this article, I will reveal the things that elude the average angler and will help to reset the balance a little.

1 INFORMATION SHARING/ NETWORKING

If you're going to be an angler who appears to master multiple species and achieve specimen results year after year, you're going to need to be an excellent networker. The top anglers are primarily on social media, sending their contemporaries messages, trying to glean little snippets of information that are not publicly posted on social media or in magazine articles. In the past, if you lived in Wales and wanted to catch a stingray from Sussex or Hampshire, you'd have had to have driven down with very little local knowledge, and your chances of success would have been close to zero, as you wouldn't have any of the intimate knowledge necessary to catch one.

QUID PRO QUO

In the modern era, multiple anglers in that neck of the woods, who are experienced stingray fishermen, are available at the touch of a button. However, invariably, you have to have something to offer them. This is where the quid pro quo system comes in. If you're a Welsh angler, you might be willing to show them some blonde ray, tope or bull huss venues as a trade for the stingray information. The conversations aren't as ruthless as they sound; it's almost an unspoken rule in this clique of top anglers that you must be willing to part with some knowledge if you wish to gain some. To the average angler sitting on Facebook, they think there is something mystical about a Welsh angler who drives most of the way across England, fishes one tide and catches a 25lb stingray. We might have had multiple attempts at the species and had poor results. We may have been doing almost everything the same as the famous angler; it's just a local gave them the exact tide or GPS marker that produces significantly better results. The illusion is of the superiority of the well-known angler, but the reality is that they are better networkers or negotiators than most. They know how to get what they want, which is knowledge.

**Success may mean fishing
five sessions a week for one
specimen fish**

2 THE ILLUSION OF CONSISTENCY

As you surf Instagram, Facebook or forums, you'll notice a group of anglers who seem to have extraordinarily great results, session after session, which has produced a desirable target, and these guys never have a blank. For all intents and purposes, they have almost immaculate records, unless of course, you fish next to one and observe a blank. There are incredibly consistent anglers out there; they are very few in the scheme of things. What is far more common to see is anglers only posting when they have success. I have been fortunate enough to fish with some of the best anglers in the country many times and some of the social media-famous, well-known names of the sport. What I quickly learned was that these chaps often sacrificed social life, precious time with family and friends, so that they could go fishing four or five times per week. Of those five sessions, they'd have one double-figure fish or target species, and that would be all you'd see on social media; it would appear they'd only been fishing once and had struck the jackpot. You could say that is disingenuous or deceitful or you could look at their social media feeds as carefully curated presentations of their best work, creating the illusion that they rarely, if ever, fail. Our sport is full of anglers like this. What I'd say to you is this; if you want it badly enough, go and do the four or five sessions per week, but don't be too hard on yourself if you go out once per fortnight and don't get your desired fish; there is no shame in it and no evidence that you are performing worse than the guy who fishes five times per week.

3 BE RUTHLESS

The most successful anglers don't mess about; they make use of almost every second of their fishing time. These guys have the appetite, will and determination to give it their best almost every time they go out. They'll bait up every 10 minutes, they'll have rigs hanging on the tripod ready to be fired out, their eyes are either on rod tips, or they are on the next bait being done. They don't sit and talk to their buddies about life like most of us do; they are a different kind of animal, focused on getting that specimen fish. You have to want it badly and be absolutely committed. For some of us that would take the pleasure out of what we love, but for them it's all about the success, that chemical release in their brains when they hook and land that incredible fish, or when they receive adoration on social media. As human beings, we do track our social status; the more we rise, the better we feel, and these guys are often addicted to that feeling. It's debatable whether that is healthy or in the spirit of what most of us love; either way, it's a choice, and this article is about how they do succeed. If you want to bait up every 30 minutes or so and prefer talking about football with a good pal, while missing taps on your rod tips, that's up to you. These guys don't do that.

Success means consistently putting your baits where the fish are. The most successful anglers are also skilled casters

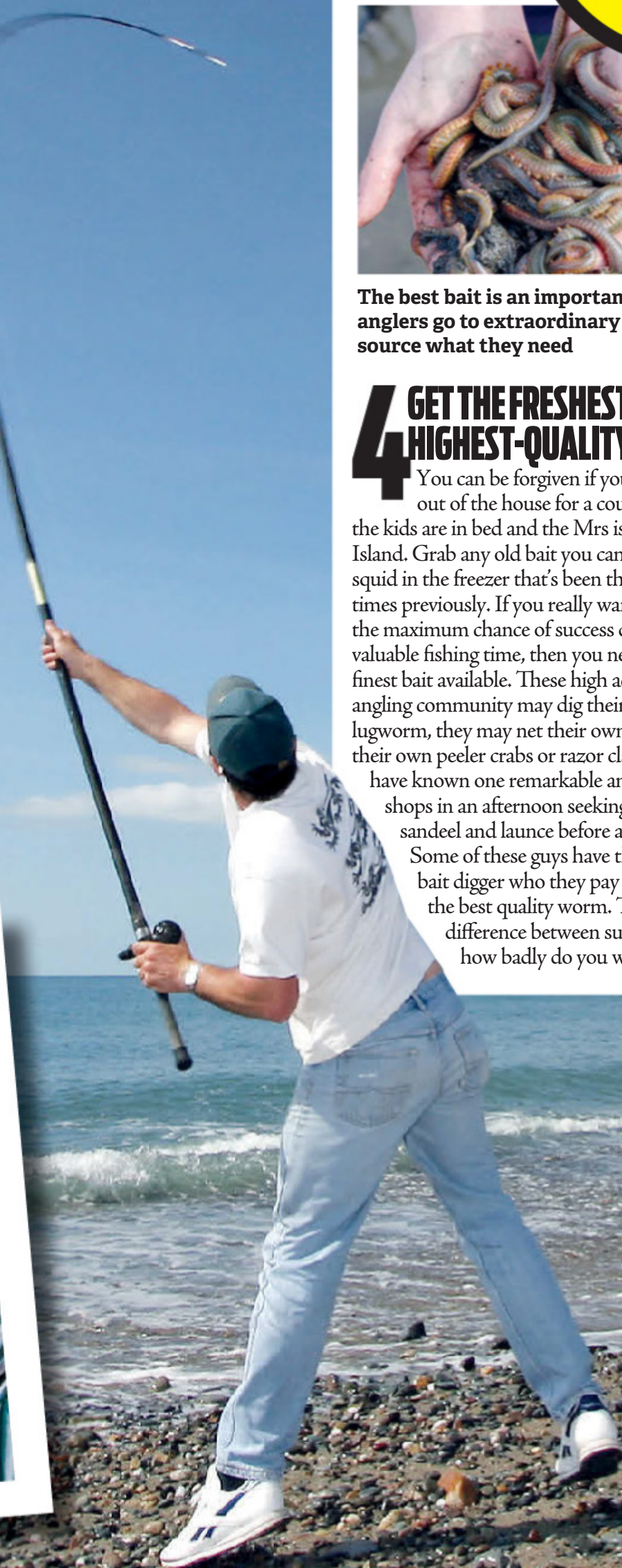
Some anglers may net their own sandeels for the ultimate freshness of their bait



The best bait is an important factor. Some anglers go to extraordinary lengths to source what they need

4 GET THE FRESHEST, HIGHEST-QUALITY BAIT

You can be forgiven if you just want to get out of the house for a couple of hours after the kids are in bed and the Mrs is watching Love Island. Grab any old bait you can, or snatch at the squid in the freezer that's been thawed out three times previously. If you really want to give yourself the maximum chance of success during your valuable fishing time, then you need to source the finest bait available. These high achievers in the angling community may dig their own ragworm or lugworm, they may net their own sandeels, collect their own peeler crabs or razor clams, and so on. I have known one remarkable angler drive to five shops in an afternoon seeking the best quality sandeel and launce before a tope session. Some of these guys have their own trusted bait digger who they pay premium rates for the best quality worm. This can be the difference between success and failure; how badly do you want it? ►



GARMIN®

THE BEST OF THE BEST JUST GOT BETTER

IMPROVED RESOLUTION, REDUCED NOISE, CLEARER IMAGES AND BETTER TARGET SEPARATION



**LIVESCOPE™
PLUS**

© 2022 Garmin Ltd. or its subsidiaries



Exchanging local knowledge puts you at an advantage straight away

5 BAIT PRESENTATION/ RIG CRAFT

These high achievers are constantly willing to experiment, to switch things up when things aren't going their way. Do you know how many times I have seen someone using shorter or longer snoods haul most of the fish? You must match your rig to the weather, tidal conditions and the venue where you are fishing. If your pulley rig in a strong tide is suspending your bait 3ft off the bottom and then up and over has it pinned to the bottom where the rays are laying, they'll have more chance of the fish picking up their scent trail. Vice versa, a popped-up halibut bait may yield much more success than one pinned to the deck. It's horses for courses, use your loaf, always be thinking and analysing. This can be crucially important and defining in terms of success and failure.



Are you sharpening your hooks regularly? Top anglers are obsessive about it

6 HOOKS MUST BE RAZOR SHARP

The first thing I really noticed about great anglers is that they are constantly checking the points of their hooks. Every single cast can result in a sharp point being rounded by some material or obstruction on the seabed. Using new hooks, each session isn't enough. Take a diamond file with you and check your hooks every single bait up. Make sure they are incredibly sharp, and if you do that, you'll even catch small fish on your big hooks. Some fish often have hard exteriors and lots of cartilage or scaly armour around the mouth; having razor-sharp hooks dramatically increases your chances of success. Don't be lazy; check them habitually and your results will improve. All these guys do it with fanaticism.



In the past, if you lived in Wales and wanted to catch a stingray from Sussex or Hampshire, you'd have had to have driven down with very little local knowledge

7 WATCH THEM

If ever you are fishing next to a very high profile or successful angler; watch them like a hawk; they won't help you but see how far they are casting, what kind of rigs they are using and how they are striking bites. I was fortunate enough to spend lots of time observing some of the best. I asked questions but generally learned the most by just studying what they were doing next to me. Great anglers are usually very efficient; improve your efficiency.



8 CASTING

This is often a less significant factor as most desirable fish are found less than 100 yards from dry land. These guys have done lessons or have taught themselves to be able to put a bait long when the conditions or venue mean that it's an advantage. It's embarrassing getting out-fished at Chesil when after cod or plaice, just because the next guy can cast 30yds further. All your bait, fuel, time and effort are wasted. You could have had two casting lessons and added a string to your bow. ►

BRAND NEW TITAN RANGE

Titan™
Exeat 25 Waterproof
Breathable Salopettes &
Smock from
£114.99 each



Titan™
Original Hooded
100% Cotton
Smock £39.99



Titan Matchman™
Multiuse Fish &
Tackle Bag
£24.99

Titan Matchman™
Original Multiuse
Fish Bag
£19.99



Titan Matchman™
Tackle & Bait
Cooler Bag
£24.99

Titan Matchman™
Waist Tackle Bag
£24.99



Titan Matchman™
Original Rod
Carrier
£24.99

Titan Matchman™
XL Rod
Carrier -
£29.99



Titan Matchman™
Original
Rucksack
£29.99



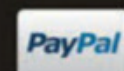
FREE GB Mainland & NI Delivery
on orders £60 or over

**ORDER EXCLUSIVELY - SEE
THE FULL RANGE
- SPECIAL OFFERS & MORE AT**

Find us on Facebook by searching Titan.fishing



www.titan.fishing
or call (0191) 4171686



9 WATERCRAFT & EXPERIMENTATION

As human beings we behave like herd animals, following or emulating what the masses do. The highest achieving people in any sport are usually doing what the many are not; it is what sets them apart. Don't be afraid to do your own thing sometimes; switch things up if your actions aren't working, change range, rigs and baits. The best anglers do this to overcome challenges and turn a poor session into a good one. Watercraft is something that few anglers mention and few are good at. In my opinion, the very best in the sport can turn up at a new venue or walk a stretch of coast, identifying fish holding features, back eddies and so on and catch, even without intimate knowledge. Such a quality only comes from trial and error, shared knowledge or a tremendous amount of experience.

The most consistently successful anglers are ruthlessly committed to achieving their goals the way many of us aren't

TAKEAWAY!

So next time you scroll through your social media feed and see that, yet again, one of the angling 'influencers' you follow has caught yet another specimen fish with seamless ease while you struggle to make any progress improving your catches, consider these points. You are the vast majority, and the exploits of the elite anglers are achievable but may not be all that they appear at first glance.

TOP 10 SECRETS SeaAngler



10 BE COMMITTED TO LEARNING

This sounds a cliché, but it's absolutely true in almost every walk of life. If you want to be the best at anything, you have to dedicate yourself to constantly acquiring knowledge. Self-development is a lifelong thing, and your peak at sea angling doesn't have to be in your youth or twenties like other sports. In this hobby or pastime, you can peak later in life. The best anglers out there all have this in common, they all want to be at the top badly; they are fiercely competitive and are constantly adding strings to their bow. Study the best, soak up any information of value and improve your game. If you want something badly enough, everything will conspire to make that happen for you.



SeaAngler

BEGINNERS GUIDE

BACK TO BASICS

In part one of a new series on starting shore fishing Martijn Dekker looks at one of the most important elements to consider – tides

The year 2020 was well and truly a year of extremes. Covid kept the world in its thrall. Some sectors saw businesses go bankrupt left, right and centre while other sectors thrived like never before. The angling industry was certainly one of those! Angling retailers, online business, clubs; everybody is profiting from the circumstances. Sportfishing Netherlands, the national angling body in the Netherlands, sold tens of thousands of extra fishing permits and it has never been so busy at the waterside. At one point, partly due to the enormous demand for sea bait, Topsy Baits was not able to supply the Dutch market for a couple of weeks. Luckily there were more sources for bait and most of us could still go fishing.

GATHERING INTEL

However, all those anglers at the waterside did result in me having to change my plans at the last minute more than a few times. Spots that would always be free were now frequently already taken which led me to forego daytime fishing, especially at the weekends. All that hustle and bustle is not really for me. On those days I prefer to step on my bike and peddle over the dikes looking for conversation with fellow fishing enthusiasts. This is a great way to gather a lot of information. At times you will get really interesting info and at other times you will be given information or tips that make you wonder why you did not think of this yourself. Which only goes to show that things that are obvious for one is a true gem of knowledge for someone else. So maybe it is a good idea to take the time to shed some light on the most basic aspects of our beloved sport.

Many marks became crowded as people took up angling during Covid



Visit your mark at low water and look for features that will hold fish



Talking to fellow anglers is a great way of gathering information on what's being caught, where and when

TIDES

The tide is probably one of the most important factors in sea fishing. Basically everything in sea fishing depends on a good tide. Of course, there are exceptions to this rule, but gathering information on the tides will certainly come in handy. You see, the tide is more than just high or low water. For instance, the tides are a cause for currents in the water. These currents entice fish to start moving, which in turn causes them to start foraging. It is difficult to say which type of fish can best be caught at which tide. Most fish will become active either when the ebb or flow current commences or is about to end.

There are predictable and logical explanations why you go out fishing at a certain tide. As a general rule, if you are fishing for whiting or flounder from the beach then be sure to fish at low tide, as you will reach deeper water more easily. If you prefer to use a float to pick out bass from between the rocks, then fish at high tide, because most rocks will then be under the waterline. This is common knowledge for most anglers but a bit





of extra knowledge with regards to the currents between ebb and flow always helps. It will also be of help at home during your preparations.

UNDERSTANDING CURRENTS

Along the Dutch coast the flood current moves about more water than the ebb current does. The flood current runs parallel to the beach in a north-western direction. This current actually starts two hours before the high water and not just after flood, as is commonly believed. After six hours the current dies down; we call this slack tide. An hour later the ebb current kicks in. This runs in a southerly direction and has a duration of three hours before the ebb to two-and-a-half hours after low water.

You will have the best chance of catching fish while the current is active, we all know that. But it is less common knowledge that the strength of the current differs from day to day, and this is caused by the position of the moon with regards to the Earth. If you know how strong the current is on the chosen fishing day you can keep this in mind while assembling your rigs; that way you can minimise what you bring to the waterside.

Low tide often gives access to the deepest water and is the best time to target whiting

Low water on spring tides allows you to see the features that will hold bass as the water floods

In the Netherlands the current runs parallel to the beach in a north-westerly direction

TOP TIP

If you really want to explore your fishing spot then visit it on the day of spring tide at low water. Now the water will be really low and obstacles which normally are not visible will be visible. If the wind happens to be strong and offshore the water level will drop even further. This is especially interesting for bass anglers.

LUNAR CYCLE

Every 29 days, 12 hours and 44 minutes the moon and the Earth will be in line with each other twice: full moon and new moon. The strength of the tides will be quite a bit stronger now causing higher and lower water levels. We call this spring tide. The days around spring tide will yield more fish than the days around neap tide. Reading Sea Angler you will more often than not come across experienced anglers targeting fish on the tides coming up to, or falling away from, spring tides.

In this same period there will be a neap tide twice, which coincides with the first and last quarter of the moon. The name already describes the phenomenon. The water movement is minimal now and the current many times weaker. You can certainly still go fishing now, the fish will bite, but they will do so a bit less

than during the stronger currents of a series of spring tides. Of course, there are exceptions to the rule. If you want to go fish on mullet then you are better off doing this on the days around a neap tide; they feel more comfortable in weaker current.

If you make notes of your catch after each session with a short description of the tide you will be sure to see patterns appear where you can plan your next sessions. Every tide table will tell you when full moon, new moon, first quarter and last quarter will take place. You will also be able to see how high or low the water level will be compared to the national water level, this is indicated with – cm for low water and + cm for high water. The bigger the difference between these values, the harder the current is that day. You can adjust your gear accordingly at home. ■

“It is less common knowledge that the strength of the current differs from day to day, and this is caused by the position of the moon with regards to the Earth”

Understanding the lunar cycle will help you fish on the most productive tides

VASS DRY RUCK SACK (40+ LITRE) EDITION 3

Available in Black & Grey / Khaki or Camo

WATERPROOF WATERPROOF WATERPROOF

40L+ Internal sealed storage area with large internal suspended pocket

Large front External Wet Pocket

Scratch Mesh Pockets each side

Adjustable Velcro Fastening (Largest strap (One each side of bag))

Comfort Straps with multi-adjustments

Waist Strap and Quick Release Buckles

VASS HYBRID CHEST WADER 700

NEW PRODUCT OUT NOW!!

Available in studded and non studded sole options

VASS-TEX 350 LIGHTWEIGHT PVC UPPER

VASS-TEX 700 TOUGH MATERIAL

VASS E-BOOT

VASS

WWW.VASS-TEX.COM

VASS PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE FROM LEADING TACKLE DEALERS

Search 'Vass Waders and Rainwear'



MONMOUTH BEACH

A popular tourist attraction at Lyme Regis, this shingle beach gives access to some great rough ground fishing

Situated on Dorset's western fringe, the shelving shingle of Monmouth Beach at Lyme Regis provides rough ground fishing with huge potential.

From the high-water mark, it gives way to sand and then some real rough stuff from the low water mark onwards. There is a series of rocky scars stretching directly out into Chippel Bay. As the tide floods various fish species move along the edge of the rocky shelves where it drops into the gully.

SEASONAL SPECIES

From mid-April onwards, Monmouth Beach is certainly worth visiting. Initially it will be dogfish, pout and rockling but the first ballan wrasse, bull huss and small-eyed rays will start to figure during May.

A wide variety of species can then be expected throughout the summer and autumn. Double-figure bass and conger eels

touching 40lb have been recorded, along with bull huss and dogfish.

Mackerel and garfish move close inshore during August and September. Once the winter starts to bite the action is limited to small species, such as pout and rockling.

TACTICS

The venue produces some reasonable action from April right through to late December. Being a popular tourist destination in summer means late evening sessions are recommended throughout the main holiday period.

The real trick in unlocking the venue is to check it out at low water to view the rocky scars and gullies. Fish in one of the gullies running between the scars where the fish will be searching for food.

Because of the rough and tumble terrain tackle needs to be chosen accordingly. This is not a venue for the modern low diameter lines,



Ballans will appear from May onwards

Doggies are a mainstay throughout the year



Rough ground calls
for pulley rigs

but instead a traditional line, like 20lb Daiwa Sensor, along with a shockleader. Pulley rigs rule supreme along this stretch of rugged shoreline because they provide a far greater chance of retrieving your tackle especially, if you have hooked a half decent fish. Hook sizes depend on bait and target species, but can range from size 1 to 4/0. A uptide hook pattern is good.

Mackerel and a few garfish are caught in late summer during early morning or evening sessions. Evenings throughout the autumn can be particularly productive for hefty nocturnal specimens. ■

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

Part of Dorset's Jurassic Coast, Monmouth Beach is off the A3052 just outside Lyme Regis, and stretches from the harbour wall (The Cobb) for about a mile to Pinhey Beach. There is a pay car park about 200m from the beach. The car park is a similar distance from the tackle shop.

TACKLE SHOP

The Tackle Box, 20 Marine Parade, Lyme Regis, DT7 3JF
Tel: 01297 443373



SAKUMA 465 KONG HOOKS

Sizes available 8/0 6/0, 5/0, 4/0 3/0, 2/0, 1/0, 1, 2, 4 & 6



SAKUMA 525 CRAB HOOKS

Sizes available 6/0, 4/0, 3/0, 2/0, 1/0, 1, 2 & 4



SAKUMA 455 OCTOPUS HOOKS

Sizes available 10/0, 8/0, 6/0, 4/0, 3/0, 2/0, 1/0 & 1

W: WWW.SAKUMA.CO.UK

E: SALES@SAKUMA.CO.UK

T: 01305 789297





LANNACOMBE TO SLAPTON

Mike Millman continues his coastal tour around the best fishing venues in Devon and Cornwall. This month he takes us to four popular marks along Devon's most southerly point



With the exception of Lannacombe, the area under review is east facing from Start Point to East Gate and comprises eight-and-a-half miles of sand coves and free open beaches that are joined when the tide is flooding and access is denied between them.

LANNACOMBE BAY

It is a top-rated venue for a variety of species ranging from plaice and dab, from May on to late autumn, and codling, whiting, pouting, the occasional flounder and greater and lesser dogfish during the colder months. Facing Lannacombe Bay, of turbot fame, the beach is the best opportunity to add this iconic species to your catch CV. Winter fishing is good for all the season's species.

START POINT

The walk down to the cove on its north is long but well worth the effort as the small beach attracts small eyed ray and the occasional blonde shows up and, if you are lucky you can make contact with a black bream.

In 2018 the area's reputation was dramatically enhanced by a spurdog of 23lb 2oz that became



Beesands is protected from heavy winter seas

the British (shore category) Record. Its quality can be judged from a previous record at the Chesil Beach of 16lb 12oz, a retrospective claim from 1964. The rocky areas of the point have an abundance of ballan wrasse and you won't have much difficulty in achieving a four pounder.

HALLSANDS & BEESANDS

The cove beaches of Hallsands and Beesands come next in this long stretch of magnificent coastline. Both offer similar species of flatties in the summer and autumn months, whiting and codling from November on. The longest stretch

of beach is that of steep shelving Slapton that begins at Torcross where a mere 75 metre cast will, when the tide is flooding, put a bait in up to 30ft of water. In 2017 the beach produced a British record garfish of 3lb 9oz 8dr for Plymouth angler Chris Davey.

Slapton's biggest cod was a cracker of 29lb and I have noted at least three more that were in the 20lb class, but codling is really the order of the night. The central area of the beach in the vicinity of the memorial column produced most of these fish, and plaice to 2lb 11oz have also come from this mark.

Slapton and Beesands have been used by





Hallsands – a view from the car park at Start Point

Wyvern since its formation in 1964 (now a marine arm of the Angling Trust) for its Annual Shore Championship usually held on the first or second Sunday in January. It is an event that often attracts in advance of 100 entries with 172 being the record number from all parts of the region.

SLAPTON

Slapton was made famous for all the wrong reasons in 1944 when it became a training ground for the United States Army in preparation for the invasion of Normandy. A Sherman Tank that was lost from a landing craft a few hundred yards beyond the low water mark was recovered in the 1980s and became a fitting memorial to the 900 or so men who lost



The record garfish of 3lbs 9oz 8dr taken at Slapton in 2017



The 'memorial' Sherman tank is displayed in the Torcross car park

their lives in Exercise Tiger. The tank recovery divers had a problem as it had become home to a number of conger eels, the largest judged to be 80lbs. By all accounts anaesthetic was pumped in to render them docile and aid removal – all survived. Today the Sherman is displayed in the Torcross Car Park where it has attracted many veterans from America who attend memorial services held there. ■

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

Access to Lannacombe, which is the most productive area, is a mile or so to the south of Start Point via a narrow road to a small NT car park from Stokenham on the A379 Kingsbridge Road.



Start Point is a sizeable peninsula reached by a narrow road to an NT Car Park again from Stokenham.

Hallsands is about nine miles from Kingsbridge. From Kingsbridge drive east on the A379 until approaching Stokenham. Access to Hallsands is from the North Hallsands car park. There is a 5-minute walk to the beach from the South Hallsands car park, which involves some steps.

For Beesands use the postcode TQ7 2EN. Use the car park towards the centre of the beach which provides easy access to the water.

Access to Slapton is at the village of Torcross at the southern end. Alternatively, the memorial or Strete Gate car parks. Be aware, the part of Slapton Sands beyond Strete Gate is an unofficial nudist beach.

TACKLE & BAIT

■ Brixham Bait & Tackle
10 The Quay, Brixham TQ5 8AW
Tel: 01803 853390
Web: brixhambaitandtackle.com



TICKLED PINK

Simon Smith ventures to Pink Bay, west of Porthcawl, for a late summer session hoping for a surfer-free beach, a bass and a mixed bag of flatties



The last cast and a small eyed ray of 7lb 7oz

I always find late summer a time of reflection. Being a teacher, late August and early September bring the end of the summer holidays, those long, lazy warm days start to slip into memory, and the year suddenly seems to have more months spent than are left in credit. Around this time, I like to squeeze in one final fishing session before the new term begins, spending the last sunlit pennies of my summer leisure on one of my local beaches.

For this session, I decided on Pink Bay in Porthcawl as a destination, a beach so named due to the pinkish boulder and pebble bank that

shelves steeply down onto the sand. Whereas other local beaches are often thronged with surfers, Pink Bay requires a walk of around 20 minutes at a brisk pace to reach the beach, something that can be off-putting to many surfers and anglers, particularly those carrying lots of gear. It can also be reached by a 10 to 15-minute hike along a boardwalk directly running from nearby Rest Bay, but parking there is unreliable during the summer due to high numbers of dog walkers, surfers and beach-goers.

Opting for the more reliable, but longer option, I parked in a little lay-by near to Picton Court nursing home, shouldered my gear and was off through the gate and across the fields. The weather was beautiful and the walk pleasant, especially as the blackberry bushes alongside were in full fruit, allowing me to act more like one of my younger pupils for a little while, grabbing and munching handfuls of berries as I plodded to the beach.

My arrival was greeted with a lovely, building surf, larger than I had expected. From my vantage point at the top of the pebble bank I could see back over to Rest Bay where the sea was already filled with surfers bobbing up and down with the swell, so was grateful for my choice of venue for this session.

SPECIES & TACTICS

Conditions looked very promising, particularly as I was hoping for a bit of variety. This beach had thrown up bass, flounder, sole and turbot for me in the past, and I had this very much in mind with the ragworm bait and my choice of rigs – a two-hook flapper kitted out with metal booms and a swan shot pinched above each hook to add a little weight, so as to cater for the lazy nature of the sole. My flapper rod of choice





A schoolie on the flapper rig



Another small but perfectly formed small eyed ray

for the session was a multi-tipped, long match rod that I hadn't used in ages, and really fancied taking out. If the surf built too much though, this rod would be a little outgunned. Hopefully, if any larger fish put in an appearance, it would be on the heavier rod that I had taken along to fish at longer range with big fish and squid cocktails on an up and over rig. I crossed my fingers and muttered a prayer to the fishing gods.

Those prayers must have been heard because I didn't have to wait long, the first bite coming to the flapper rod. Unfortunately, I missed it, but five minutes later I took the first fish of the session, a nice little small-eyed ray of about a pound on the longer-range rod, cast to around 90 yards. This seemed to set a pattern somewhat as, over the next two hours, I landed another four rays, all small, though all of them fell to the lighter match rod and flapper rig rather than the range rod. So far, so good.

RAYED OUT

Now, I don't wish to seem ungrateful, but these rays were becoming a bit of a nuisance. I've been "dogged out" by nuisance dogfish many times, but never "rayed" out. I decided after these four that, seeing as it was much of the same, I would make this the last cast and, seeing as the tide had pushed me up onto the pebbles by now, I would swap my wellies back to my trainers ready for the journey back. Oh how those fishing gods must have laughed.

The flapper rod slammed down. I had a good idea of what it was by the bite, and was pleased to have my suspicions confirmed when a 1lb school bass slid up the beach, giving me the little bit of variety I had been craving. Of course, this now meant that I had to have a last cast, and so out went the rigs again. This is when things got interesting.

I was just tucking into a cup of coffee and a sandwich when the tip of the flapper rod started going over... and kept going... and kept going! Buttie and cuppa were hurled unceremoniously to one side as I wound down into something a lot more serious.

I initially hoped that it was a good bass, but the bite wasn't very bassy, though the fish certainly fought hard as the surf's backwash sucked it back out from the base of the pebbles. The flapper rod really isn't designed for this type of fishing and was seriously hooped over by the fish on the other end, so I had to back off the drag and play it in with the surge of the waves. Five minutes of careful handling and muttering to myself over rod selection delivered the culprit to my feet (now soaked due the premature earlier abandonment of the wellies) and it was a proper bin lid of a small-eyed ray. After a quick photo the scales revealed it to be 7lb 7oz, a beautiful fish by anyone's measure.

I slipped the fish back (getting another bootful for my troubles) and of course had to have a 'right, this is definitely the last, last cast' which resulted in another small-eyed of about a pound -and-a-half to round the night off nicely and cap this final summer session before attention focused upon the autumn to come.

Not wanting to be greedy and anger those fishing gods any further, I decided that I would call it a night. Strangely enough, that long walk didn't seem half so long on the way back, even with squelching wet feet! ■

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

Easiest access for those who do not know the area well is to leave the M4 at Junction 37, taking the A4229 onto the Pyle Road, then onto the A4106, following the signs for Porthcawl. Follow the road straight through the final roundabout and along the Esplanade onto Mallard Way, eventually taking a sharp left turn just past Lock's Common and following the signposted road to the Rest Bay car park. From here, anglers can follow the boardwalk running from Rest Bay along the coast to Sker Point, stopping at Pink Bay. The beach is not as heavily frequented by surfers as Rest Bay, so should be fishable on most tides, though care should be taken if fishing the flood on the bigger tides, as conditions can become rough.

TACKLE & BAIT

■ Ewenny Angling
21 Coychurch Road, Bridgend
Tel: 01656 650604
■ Keen's Tackle
119 Bridgend Road, Bridgend
Tel: 01656 722448





ORFORD ISLAND

Looking for something different? How about a boat trip to a picturesque island wildlife reserve where you will be uptiding from the shore?



Orford ferry transferring anglers onto the island

Stretching beyond the idyllic village of Orford, with Aldeburgh to the north, and Bawdsey to the south, is the iconic shingle spit which is Orford Island. Over the 1970s, 1980s, and even in the early 2000s, it was said to be one of the cod capitals of the UK; the quality of its winter fishing has been written about many times. However, with the demise of the southern North Sea cod shoal, the island, as its affectionally known, is still the place to go, but now its season stretches to include spring,

summer and autumn, with a change in species from cod to one of good-sized hounds, rays, bass, and plenty of them. The island was formally administered by the Ministry of Defence, and has a history of secret military tests during both the world wars and the Cold War.

Whatever did or didn't go on in the past it's now a haven for wildlife, overseen by the National Trust. Sadly, erosion has taken the lighthouse, which used to stand proud in the distance as you stood on the quay looking east,

watching the sunrise, in anticipation as to what the day's fishing would bring. Access to the island is only by boat, leaving Orford Quay and sailing down the River Ore to one of the two designated landing areas: The Crouch or The Narrows. Its neighbouring island, Havergate, is owned and looked after by RSPB, and while there have at times been tensions between the NT, RSPB and anglers, The Orford ferryman, Olly Page, local clubs; Orfordness, Ipswich Angling clubs and SAMF have worked hard to establish a good working relationship, proving protecting wildlife, countryside and angling, with a little compromise, can work in harmony.

BAIT AND TACTICS

Orford is a deep-water venue, and on a spring tide can produce tidal flows which prove a real challenge to hold bottom. From about half tide down and then the first four hours of the flood is in my view the best time. Choose a



The ferry trip over to the island anticipating a good day ahead



Orfordness lighthouse



**Dan Eagle
with a decent
thornback ray**



**Big fish run close in; junior international
Brayden Aldous with a hound caught
within 30m of the beach**



Rob Tuck with a summer hound



**Barry Goode, an island regular, with an
Orford Island bass**

mid-range tide, which usually produces a steady flow throughout. Bait and rigs couldn't really be easier; flapping rigs and squid. It's not generally a distance venue, 70 metres on most occasions is plenty, there's always the odd exception and if conditions allow then a bait further out can work, use a grip lead, 160-200g. In spring crabs can work, but even then, squid will still catch plenty of fish. As with many venues along our east coast dogfish are becoming more and more plentiful and can be a nuisance, nicking baits intended for bigger fish.

Rigs can be very simple flappers, 1, 2 or 3 hooks depending on what you want; two up, one down, 30cm-70cm snoods with a strong hook. I prefer Gamakatsu F31s, Sakuma Phantoms or Kamasan short shank; size of hook is entirely what you feel comfortable with. I tend to use 4s, perhaps 2s but there's nothing wrong with using 1s-1-0s. Give yourself space between anglers to allow a 20-30 metre walk up tide before you cast; this gives your lead time to settle, it's uptiding from a beach!

As an alternative, don't be afraid to put a big bait right in the gutter, or float a head hooked rag or fish bait in search of a bass, which patrol the edges, particularly as we near autumn and as the whiting become prolific. With the island you just never know, it wouldn't surprise me if I heard of a big tope or spurdog; there's many a tale of anglers being smashed up by a creature from the deep!

ACCESS

Access to the island is strictly controlled, and the only public access is via National Trust with their heritage and wildlife tours (see their website). It's worth a visit for fishing via Olly Page, the Orford Ferry, which is licenced and is able to take at least 12 anglers and all their gear at one time. Ferry costs are around £10-15 per angler depending on drop off point. It only takes about 15 minutes to cross to the Crouch, and 25 minutes to the narrows.

Once on the island you must stick to

designated footpaths to access the beach as there are many protected plants, and during nesting season some parts are prohibited; Olly will point you in the right direction. It's a beautiful but remote place to fish, but always take a coat, food and drink, as once there, there's no way back. Olly welcomes clubs who may be interested in spending a day on the island; both the Ipswich and Orford clubs hold a match a month on the island between March and September such is its popularity with members. Orford is a national treasure, please help to keep it this way. The local clubs always have a beach clean when they go over, and so please have a mini beach clean wherever you fish as it all helps. ■

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

From Woodbridge (A12 North), take the Melton turning and head for the B1084 to Orford. There's plenty of cheap car parking close to the quay, along with some fantastic pubs if you fancy a beer and a bite to eat upon your return.



Orford Ferry: Olly Page 07900 230579
Ipswich Sea Anglers: Matt LF 07810 564399 or Orfordness Paul Harrison 07788 860562

TACKLE & BAIT

■ Local tackle shops:
Saxmundham Angling Centre, back of Market Place, Saxmundham IP171AH, 01728 603443
Breakaway Tackle, Bramford Road Ipswich, 01473 832822

PENN Squall Level Wind Multiplier

Tough and reliable level-wind reels covering all aspects of general boat fishing with both mono and braid lines. Features include a graphite frame and side-plate, marine grade bronze main and pinion gear, HT100 Versa Drag system and an instant anti-reverse bearing.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE1595	20	415yds/17lb	£119.99	£70.00
PE1597	30	455yds/25lb	£129.99	£70.00

PENN Fathom II 15 SD CS Star Drag Casting Special Multiplier

A high performance reel for the shore angler who is looking for a reel to cast the maximum distance whilst still having the power to handle big fish and tough conditions.



CODE	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
PE1946	430m/0.35mm	£234.99	£225.00

DAIWA Sealine SLOSH Multipliers

The SL20SH and SL30SH are two top drawer performers boasting powerful, high speed gearing. Nicknamed 'SLOSH' by their many fans around UK coastlines, they are excellent for all shore work, uptiding and a variety of down tide boat fishing.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
DW0631	SL20SH	250m/20lbs	£125.00	£95.00
DW0633	SL30SH	300m/20lbs	£125.00	£95.00

Best Selling Century Rods

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PRICE
CN0181	Graphex Match Beach	13ft 6	125-175g	£515
CN0182	Graphex Supermatch LD Beachcaster	13ft	50-150g	£499
CN0183	Graphex Ultralite ST Beachcaster	13ft	50-125g	£475
CN0394	Fireblade Surf	13ft	4-6oz	£275
CN0180	Tip Tornado Beach	13ft 6	4-7oz	£520
CN0179	Tip Tornado Graphex Sport Beach	13ft 11	4-8oz	£560
CN0078	Kompressor SS Beachcaster	13ft 10	4-7oz	£465

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE OUR HUGE STOCK OF CENTURY RODS, INCLUDING BASS, BOAT & SPINNING RODS!

PENN Rampage 2 Boat Rods

SALE

Engineered to be fished with braided fishing line, these rods can take the extra strain created by these hi-tech lines and will punish any fish.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
PE1707	7ft6	20-30lb	4	£84.99	£50.00
PE1708	7ft4	30-50lb	4	£84.99	£50.00
PE1709	7ft4	50lb	2	£84.99	£70.00
PE1818	7ft6	12lb	2	£89.99	£54.00
PE1817	7ft6	20lb	2	£89.99	£54.00

Shakespeare Agility 2 Uptide & Bass Rods



A fast taper, lightweight blank made from high grade carbon and designed to be held for long periods.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
SP3936	Salt Uptide	9ft 6	5-10oz	2	£75.00
SP3934	Salt Bass	11ft	60-120g	5	£70.00

Shakespeare Agility Luggage

- a) Packed with 20 separate resealable wallets, removable thanks to the strong velcro system.
- b) This practical rucksack sports a waterproof PVC backing, and is designed to be big enough to carry all the gear required, while remaining comfortable to carry.



	CODE	MODEL	NOW
A	SP3443	Rig Wallet	£15.00
B	SP3441	Rucksack	£25.00

Shakespeare Agility Surf Reels

Purpose built for UK beach fishing, Shakespeare's Agility Surf range are designed to handle saltwater use, and are thoroughly tested for reliability. Features a large capacity, distance casting spool, matched with a smooth drag system.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SP3392	70	20lbs/240yds	£67.99	£40.00
SP3391	80	15lbs/360yds	£69.99	£40.00

Shakespeare Agility Saltwater FD Reel

The Agility Saltwater FD reels deliver a quality, saltwater proof reel for a great price. Holds up to 150m of 12lb mono or 300m of 30lb braid.



SAVE £20!

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SP4008	40	150m/12lb	£55.99	£30.00
SP4009	60	200m/20lb	£59.99	£40.00

okuma Distance Surf Arena Fixed Spool Reel

- Graphite blade body
- Worm shaft Oscillation system
- 1 one-way roller bearing
- Cold Forged Aluminium Distance spool
- Flex aluminium line clip
- Bail lock system
- Holds 210m of 20lb mono



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
SV20018	DSA-60	0.40mm/210m	£59.99	£50.00

FISHEAGLE Saracen Boat Rod



The Saracen Boat Rod from Fisheagle continue the trend of uncompromising performance balanced with outstanding value. The powerful 2 piece blank is rigged with fully lined guides, a dependable screw lock reel seat, and is rated at a versatile 20-30lb, making it ideal for a wide range of offshore targets in British waters.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
RE0552	7ft	20-30lb	2	£29.99	£14.99

AXIA Full Monty Travel Beach Combo

This handy Travel Beach kit consists of:

- Axia Beachcaster 12ft Rod 3pc
- Fisheagle Q8 6000 Surf Reel
- Rig Wallet & 20 Assorted Rigs
- Fisheagle Tourney Shockleader
- Casting Torpedo x 5
- Fisheagle Bait Elastic
- Stillwater Headlamp
- Tripod

INO865
RRP: £165.42
£89.99



Shakespeare Agility 2 Boat Salt Rod Series



These rods feature lightweight, fast actioned, yet powerful blanks designed to maximise bite detection.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
SP3940	Boat	7ft	20lb	2	£40.00
SP3941	Boat	7ft	30lb	2	£40.00
SP3944	Braid	8ft	20-30lb	2	£50.00
SP3945	Expedition	7ft	20-30lb	4	£50.00
SP3946	Expedition	7ft	20-50lb	4	£50.00

FISHEAGLE Expert MKII 2pc Flotation Suit

The latest edition of the best selling Expert 2-piece Flotation suit is state of the art and has been produced and conforms to ISO 12402-5 & 12402-6 regulations. This update has all the functions and quality that you are used too, but with a modern touch and extra safety features. Bib and Brace trousers that are certified as a 50 Newton Buoyancy Aid having been specially designed to elevate the top half of your body when in water.

The suit features a reflective tape for night safety, a stitched-in belt with ITW Nexus buckle and a CE 394 whistle. Made from a light, wind and water-resistant fabric, they provide comfort for any inclement trips day or night as well as safety in the water.

RRP £139.99
OUR PRICE
£109.99

CODE	SIZE
RE0852	S
RE0853	M
RE0854	L
RE0855	XL
RE0856	2XL
RE0857	3XL



NEW

FISHEAGLE Q8 Surf Reel Loaded with Mono

Sturdy Pre-Loaded Fixed Spool Reel.

- The 6000 is perfect for pairing with your pier/ Mackerel/Bass Rod.
- The 8000 is ideal for beachcasters and surf rods.



CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	RRP	NOW
RE0837	6000	0.60mm/145m	£29.99	£19.99
RE0865	8000	0.50mm/240m	£29.99	£19.99

PENN Tidal Surfcasting Rods

BEST SELLER



Tidal stands for everything you need for surfcasting: Super strong but lightweight and responsive 30T carbon blanks that are designed to have the best distance properties.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	NOW
PE2301	14ft	50-200g	3	£126.99
PE2302	14ft	100-225g	3	£126.99
PE2303	14ft	100-250g	3	£126.99
PE2304	14ft	100-300g	3	£126.99

PENN Wrath Spinning Combos

NEW



Carbon spinning rods that are matched with the great PENN Wrath reels.

CODE	LENGTH	CASTS	PCS	NOW
PE2114	7ft	10-40g	2	£79.99
PE2115	8ft	20-40g	2	£84.99
PE2116	8ft	80-120g	2	£92.99
PE2117	9ft	30-60g	2	£92.99
PE2118	9ft	100-150g	2	£99.99
PE2119	10ft	20-80g	2	£99.99

Shakespeare Omni Mackerel Rod



Shakespeare's Omni Range is ideal for beginners and more experienced anglers alike. The Mackerel arriving in British waters is a sure sign of summer and these rods are superb for fishing feathers and baits off rock marks or piers on a sunny afternoon.

CODE	LENGTH	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SP3341	10ft	4-8oz	2	£34.99	£23.99

MARUKYU Isome Worms

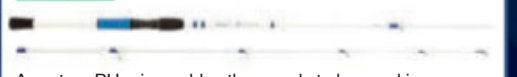
These supremely versatile worms are available in a range of colours and sizes, with their extremely lifelike bodies and action proving irresistible fished in a range of methods.

FULL RANGE
AVAILABLE ON
OUR WEBSITE!

ALL WORMS
FROM ONLY
£6.99



Shakespeare Excursion Bass Spinning Rods



A custom PU grip enables these rods to be used in whatever conditions are thrown at you, especially on the shoreline. A white blank offers unparalleled bite indication and actions and lengths to cover all in-shore opportunities.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	NOW
SP4200	8ft	Med 15-40g	2	£44.99	£24.00
SP4202	8ft	Heavy 30-60g	2	£44.99	£25.00
SP4203	9ft	Heavy 30-80g	2	£49.99	£30.00
SP4204	9ft	Med 15-45g	2	£49.99	£25.00

SAVAGE GEAR Gravity Bass Stick Kit

A slim-profile, long-casting range of soft lures with a high specific gravity. This 30pc+17pc kit is ideal for those seeking to fish with these brand new lures but need each colour in the 3 tail types with hooks and weights.

BACK IN STOCK!

SV22099
RRP: £34.99

£26



Shakespeare Firebird Mackerel Outfit

This superb 10ft 2pc rod casts 4-6oz, letting you throw out a feather rig and lead weight for targeting Mackerel, with plenty of power for the fight, and features a modern abbreviated EVA handle, cushioned DPS reel seat and Titanium Oxide insert double leg guides. The combo is completed with a Firebird 60FD reel, pre-spoiled with 20lb clear mono

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP3820	10ft	4-6oz	2	£99.99	£20.00

Shakespeare Boat Outfit

This boat rod and reel combo is great value for money. Ideal for someone just starting fishing as it gives you a good chance to experience the thrill without a big bill. The reel is right hand wind and also loaded with 30lb line.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP4001	7ft	20-30lb	2	£49.99	£40.00

Shakespeare Firebird Beachcaster Outfit

The Shakespeare Firebird Rod and Reel Combo is a 2 piece mid-action rod with a fixed spool reel that comes pre-spoiled with 20lb clear mono. Easy to put together and use, it's ideal for kids and beginner or intermediate anglers, or as an affordable backup or occasional use rod.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP3809	12ft	4-8oz	2	£49.99	£35.00

Shakespeare Firebird Spinning Outfit

Designed to cover most UK light to medium spinning applications. The blanks are strong and slim at the price point with medium actions that will allow beginner and kids to cast easily. The reel is also loaded with 6lb line.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP3816	8ft	15-60g	2	£99.99	£24.00

Abu Garcia Ambassador C 7000

The 7000 series from Abu Garcia has long been a mainstay for a wide variety of target species and methods, and now it's stronger and more ergonomic than ever.

CODE	MODEL	CAPACITY	PRICE
PU4202	7000 RHW	230m/0.46mm	£137.99
PU4203	7001 LHW	230m/0.46mm	£137.99

Shakespeare Agility HRF/LRF Rods

A new concept rod designed to work small lures and jig heads up to 40gms from boats targeting smaller ground dwelling species such as wrasse, small pollack, cod, coalfish, gurnards, bream, plaice, haddock and whiting.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SP3484	6ft 7	0.5-7g	2	£28.00
SP3485	7ft	5-15g	2	£30.00

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SP3948	8ft	10-20g	2+2	£35.00
SP3949	8ft 6	20-40g	2+2	£35.00

Shakespeare Omni Surf Rods

Shakespeare's great value Omni range is ideal for beginners and more experienced anglers alike, these rods maximise performance and quality at this key Shakespeare price point.

CODE	LEN	CASTS	PCS	RRP	PRICE
SP3994	10ft	4-6oz	3	£99.99	£30.00
SP3995	12ft	4-6oz	3	£49.99	£40.00
SP3996	12ft	4-6oz	3	£49.99	£40.00

SHIMANO STC Rods

The STC Boat rods are the ultimate sea spinning rods and cater for both shore and boat fishing situations.

CODE	MODEL	LEN	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
SU12363	Travel Spin	8ft 2	14-40g	6	£164.99
SU12364	Travel Spin	8ft 2	50-100g	6	£174.99
SU12344	Travel Spin	8ft 10	50-100g	5	£134.99
SU14275	Boat Spin	8ft	150-300g	4	£134.99
SU12365	Shore Boat	9ft 10	150-300g	4+2	£184.99

TFC Force8 Competition Tripod

- Fully extended fishing height nearly 8ft
- V shaped main leg
- Round legs fold and clip into main frame
- Fully adjustable butt cap rod rest
- Inbuilt trace hanger hooks and center hook for luggage/buckets
- Pack down height of 6ft
- Weight 2.8kg

AF5248
RRP: £59.99
£30

FISHEAGLE Saracen Mackerel Outfit

- Fisheagle Saracen Mackerel Rod 11ft 1-3oz 2pc
- Fisheagle Q8 Surf Reel loaded with Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet and 10 Assorted Bait Rigs

U117FSH
RRP: £89.97
£24.99

FISHEAGLE Saracen Complete Beach

- Fisheagle Saracen 12ft 2pc Beachcaster Casts 2-4oz
- Fisheagle Q8 8000 Surfcasting Fixed Spool Reel
- Reel is Loaded with with 20lb Mono
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet with 10 Popular assorted Ready Tied Bait Beach rigs
- Spool of 40lb Powerstorm Vi Vis Shockleader

RE0721
RRP: £98.96
£49.99

FISHEAGLE Saracen Beachcaster Outfit

- Fisheagle Saracen Beachcaster 13ft 4-8oz 3pc Rod
- Shakespeare Agility Surf 70 Reel
- Fisheagle Rig Wallet and 10 Assorted Bait Rigs
- Lureflash Powerstorm Monofilament

U116FSH
RRP: £171.96
£89.99

TEAM DAIWA Seat Boxes

Daiwa have released a seatbox that is ideal for carrying all your tackle in one place. The boxes are designed to be both light and strong.

CODE	COLOUR	SIZE	PRICE
DW0083	Yellow/Black	35 x 22 x 38cm	£47.99
DW2532	Black	54 x 37 x 44cm	£59.00

DAIWA J-Braid Grand

Introducing J-BRAID x8 GRAND, the new Ultimate Braid in Daiwa's J-Braid Family. Strong, and resistant to abrasion yet well-bodied enough to lay smoothly on the spool.

	11LB 0.06MM	15LB 0.10MM	19LB 0.13MM	35LB 0.20MM	RRP	NOW
DW9823	DW9824	DW9825	DW9828		£47.99	£25

	43LB 0.22MM	49LB 0.24MM	79LB 0.35MM	RRP	NOW
DW9829	DW9830	DW9832		£47.99	£25

RON THOMPSON Hyper 4-Braid

- 4-braid construction
- No stretch
- High linear strength

110m / Grey

CODE	B/S	RRP	NOW
SV20245	15lb	£9.99	£6.00
SV20246	18lb	£9.99	£6.00
SV20247	20lb	£9.99	£6.00
SV20248	22lb	£9.99	£6.00
SV20249	25lb	£9.99	£6.00

IRONPRED Guerilla Beachcaster Rods

A well priced continental rod that packs a punch at a price everybody can afford. Ideally suited to fishing clean beaches when targeting species such as flounder, whiting, plaice and dogfish.

CODE	LENGTH	CASTS	PCS	PRICE
TX7658	13ft 6	100-200g	2	£92.99
TX7656	13ft 7	100-200g	3	£91.99
TX7657	14ft 7	100-200g	3	£97.99

WESTIN Salty Lures

This bestselling Westin lure has it all.

COLOUR	7CM / 12G	9CM / 18G	11CM / 26G
Canned Sardine	WN2086	WN2104	WN2122
GFR	WN2088	WN2106	WN2124
Dotted Sardine	WN2089	WN2107	WN2125
Diamond Thief	WN2090	WN2108	WN2126
Pattengrison	WN2093	WN2111	WN2129
3D Yellow Ayu	WN3177	WN3184	WN3191
3D Brown Headlight	WN3178	WN3185	WN3192
3D Sparkling Herring	WN3179	WN3186	WN3193
UV Hottie Pearl	WN3180	WN3187	WN3194
PRICE	£5.99	£6.50	£6.99

FULL RANGE
AVAILABLE ON
OUR WEBSITE!

FISHEAGLE Hunt Lures

The all-new Fisheagle Hunt Lures are deadly for all salt and freshwater fish.

COLOUR	28G 12CM	43G 14CM
Green/Silver	TA2529	TA2534
Fluro/Green/Yellow	TA2530	TA2535
Fluro/Red/Black	TA2531	TA2536
Black Pearl	TA2532	TA2537
Silver Pearl	TA2533	TA2538
RRP	£4.99	£5.50
PRICE	£2.99	£3.50

SAVAGE GEAR Sandeel V2 2+1 Pack

This super realistic sandeel imitation will fool even the wariest of predator fish.

COLOUR	12CM 22G	14CM 33G	15.5CM 46G	17.5CM 65G
Green Silver	SV23661	SV23667	SV23673	SV23679
Khaki	SV23662	SV23668	SV23674	SV23680
White Pearl Silver	SV23663	SV23669	SV23675	SV23681
Blue Pearl Silver	SV23664	SV23670	SV23676	SV23682
Lemon Back	SV23665	SV23671	SV23677	SV23683
Pink Pearl Silver	SV23666	SV23672	SV23678	SV23684
PRICE	£7.99	£8.99	£9.99	£10.99

EVEN MORE V2 LURES AVAILABLE ONLINE!

SAVAGE GEAR 3D Line Thru Sandeel Lures

A 3D Scan of a real sandeel, has provided the perfect details and body shape for this great line-thru hard lure!

CODE	LEN	WGT	COLOUR	RRP	NOW
SV22056	125mm	19g	Brown Ghost	£10.99	£4.00
SV26487	150mm	27g	Black & Red UV	£14.99	£4.00
SV26488	150mm	27g	Black Silver	£14.99	£4.00
SV26489	150mm	27g	Green Pearl	£14.99	£4.00

SAVAGE GEAR Sandeel Pencil Lures

Extreme long cast design for amazing coverage. Supplied with both a single and a treble hook, with the option to add the treble hook to the belly as well.

COLOUR	9CM 13G	15CM 30G
Sandeel	SV21960	SV21522
Sandeel Ghost	SV21961	SV21523
Black Silver	SV21962	SV21524
Motor Oil UV	SV21963	SV21525
Black&Red UV	SV21964	SV21526
Matt White Tobis	SV21965	SV21527
RRP	£8.99	£10.99
PRICE	£7.99	£9.99

COLOUR	9CM 13G	12.5CM 19G	15CM 30G
Black Copper UV	SV21966	SV21528	-
Blue Silver UV	SV21967	SV21529	-
Matte White	SV23235	SV23240	SV23245
Black Pearl	SV23236	SV23241	SV23246
Lemon Back	SV23237	SV23242	SV23247
Cotton Candy	SV23238	SV23243	SV23248
Sayoris	SV23239	SV23244	SV23249
PRICE	£7.99	£9.99	£10.99

SAVAGE GEAR 3D Line Thru Sandeel Lures

A 3D Scan of a real sandeel, has provided the perfect details and body shape for this great line-thru hard lure!

COLOUR	8.5CM 11G	11CM 15G	12.5CM 19G	15CM 27G
Sandeel	SV19558	SV19016	SV17836	-
Sandeel Ghost	SV19559	SV19017	SV17837	SV17843
Motoroil UV	SV19560	SV19019	SV17841	SV17847
Black & Red UV	SV19561	SV19020	SV19353	-
Black N Yellow Glow	SV19562	SV19354	SV19350	SV19352
Black Ghost	-	-	SV17839	SV17845
Gold Pout	SV20550	-	SV20560	-
Pink Pout	SV20552	-	SV20562	-
Matt White Tobis	-	-	SV19349	SV19351
RRP	£8.99	£9.99	£11.99	£14.99
PRICE	£7.99	£8.99	£9.99	£12.99

CALL TODAY
FOR YOUR
FREE
CATALOGUE

FREE
DELIVERY
ON ORDERS
OVER £50

CLICK AND
COLLECT
ORDER
ONLINE

LOW COST
FINANCE
AVAILABLE



Unit 1 The Point Retail Park,
29 Saracen Street, Glasgow, G22 5HT
GLASGOW: 0141 212 8880



Unit E Granton Retail Park,
West Harbour Road, Edinburgh, EH5 1PW
EDINBURGH: 0131 202 6351



Visit us on facebook
facebook.com
/glasgowanglingcentre
/edinburghanglingcentre



Follow us on Twitter
@glasgowangling
@edinburghanglin



Read our Blog
blog.fishingmegastore.com



Visit our website to order online: **fishingmegastore.com**



BURRY PORT

The North Channel of the Loughor Estuary at Burry Port offers rich fishing opportunities over low water with the chance of shore-caught tope among an array of other species



Dabs are prolific throughout winter

The north coast of the Gower Peninsula is flanked by the sprawling expanse of the Loughor Estuary, which flows into Carmarthen Bay. The outer part of the estuary to the west of Burry Port consists of long sandy beaches, which face across to an ever-changing system of offshore sandbanks known as the Hooper Sands. These sandbanks very effectively split the flow of water through two channels, one to the south off the coast of Gower, the second to the north at the southern end of Cefn Sidan beach. This is known as The North Channel, which we are going to look at here.

Blow lug is a top bait for many species here



Fish two hours either side of low water into the channel where the fish are concentrated

SPECIES

Throughout the year the Loughor Estuary produces a wide range of species for both boat and shore anglers. Shore anglers in particular have long recognised the potential of the Loughor Estuary. Back in the 1960s and 1970s the south channel at Llanmadoc used to be the place to target tope from the shore, and was given a high profile by anglers of the day such as Clive Gammon.

While in recent years some anglers have targeted tope from the shore here with some success, today's shore anglers generally focus on catching the likes of various species of flatfish, bass, whiting, smoothhounds, codling, gurnards along with numerous other species, including black bream. During the winter months dabs and flounder are especially prolific.

Most anglers fish here on mid-range to large spring tides, fishing for about two to three hours either side of low water. As the tide drops back the channel soon starts to reveal itself, obviously concentrating the fish. Simple flapper rigs tied with size 2 Aberdeen hooks are ideal for flatfish and other smaller species.

BAITS & TACTICS

Effective baits include frozen black lug, freshly dug blow lug, maddies, frozen mackerel, and few peeler crab, with your ultimate choice obviously depending on your target species. Rigs need to be frequently checked, as crabs very quickly strip the hooks clean. A simple lob of 30-60 yards is usually sufficient to put a baited rig out into the channel in front and given the strong fair lateral pull of the tide, a 4-5oz grip lead is necessary to hold your rig in place.

The inner reaches of the Loughor Estuary, east of a line drawn from Whitford Point lighthouse on the Gower Coast to Burry Port Harbour, is a bass nursery area, and arguably one of the most productive flounder venues you'll find anywhere in the UK today. ■



Watch out for weavers!



A silver eel from the North Channel

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

To get to Burry Port follow the A484 in a westerly direction from Llanelli, or easterly if travelling from Carmarthen. Head towards Burry Port Marina and the Shoreline Caravan Park, which are well signposted. The public car park is adjacent to the caravan park. This is a generally safe beach to fish, just watch the flooding tide does not cut off your retreat to safety.



LOCAL TACKLE SHOPS

- Anglers Corner in Llanelli
Tel: 01554 773981
- Country Stores in Gowerton
Tel: 01792 875050
- Mainwaring's in Swansea
Tel: 01792 202245





UTES AND RITUALS

For Simon Smith, the magic of preparing your tackle and kit for a fishing session brings back fond childhood memories of time spent with his grandfather

Looking out through the study window as I write this, I see that the silent stillness of the evening has become tangled in a soft, steady mesh of rain, the drizzle not enough to count as a noise in itself, but perhaps as a different, slightly louder, form of silence. A hush, perhaps. To be expected. After all, it is still winter, the nights remain long and, as R.S Thomas put it, we continue to find ourselves “Lost in the world’s wood”.

On it falls, as I write up the notes from my earlier session, muttering the words as they appear on the screen: whiting; pouting; dab; each one becoming flesh again as it’s uttered and re-imagined, a slightly more refined version of the instant replay I began in my head immediately upon breaking down the rods and packing away, which was in turn a slightly more refined version of the actual frenetic, time-blurring reality of the actual session as it happened. Writing these notes up like this, while they’re still fresh in the mind, keeps everything shiny, new and detailed. Thinking about how the air seemed like glass in the lungs and how my fingertips tingled with having to unhook and release what seemed like millions of tiny whiting all intent on crawling up the line, a tingle that I still feel now, a ghosting sensation across my fingertips as I tap-tap-tap away at the keyboard.

Each rerun will polish the session that little bit more, refine it a tad before it is packed away with all the other hundreds of sessions over the years, consigned to memory – both the increasingly hazy actual and the megabyte-accurate electrical. I take time over this, though, because it is important.

It’s easy to forget that from our earliest memories, so much of importance remains locked in remembrance and ritual, those habitual cadences into which we often fall, and in which all of fishing truly resides: the rhythms and stances of casting locked deep within our muscles, the intricate tracteries of various knots, rigs and flies just a fingertip away or those secret places where a few peeler crabs can be winkled out time and again.

Among my favourite rituals are always those rites of preparation, and I can still vividly recall the sacredness of Friday evenings as a boy. Every weekend would follow the same ritual: my grandfather would pick me up on his way home from his local, helping me to carry my tackle on the short walk to his house (made longer by the swaying slip-stagger he fell into after his few pints) where I would sleep over

for the weekend, although, perhaps, fish-over would be a better description of how we’d spend Saturday evening, night and, often, a large chunk of Sunday morning.

In the hours before he picked me up, there were preparations to be made. While the rest of my family would be sat in front of the telly blah-blah-blahing a few hours away, I would shut myself into the inner sanctum (known at other times as the kitchen), sealing myself in and my family out. The canvas stool would be next to my chair, the bag sewn to its side gaping open, ready for the necessities to be packed, all in the order in which they would be needed.

First in, and therefore at the bottom of the bag, the knife and scales. There’s always hope that they’ll be needed, but there’s never any sense in tempting fate by keeping them near to hand at the top; sod’s law always states that you’ll catch a good fish when you’ve not got anything at hand to help you deal with it. A quick check of the blade for rust and sharpness first and, if needed, I’d give the blade a few runs along the kitchen steel, making sure to do it quietly so as to avoid anyone hearing and rushing in to dish out a bollocking.

Next in were the sinkers, stored in one of Mam’s best Tupperware tubs from the drawer. No, I haven’t seen it Mam! Just the quickest glance to make sure all grip wire rollers are intact and in place, then it too was stashed in the bag to avoid not just that bollocking, but certain death too.

Then came the rigs, all stored neatly in some of my grandfather’s old tobacco pouches. God only knows what our nanny state would make of that nowadays! All hooks sharp and rust free? Any kinked line? Should there be a blunt point or a rust spot, out would come the sandpaper and file.

Moving on to the reel. I only had one half-decent fixed spool as Christmas was still a couple of months away, so the spool with the good line was always mounted on the reel and the spare spool with the okayish, not-so-good, it’ll-do-at-a-push line would be tucked in beside it with a quiet prayer that it wouldn’t be needed.

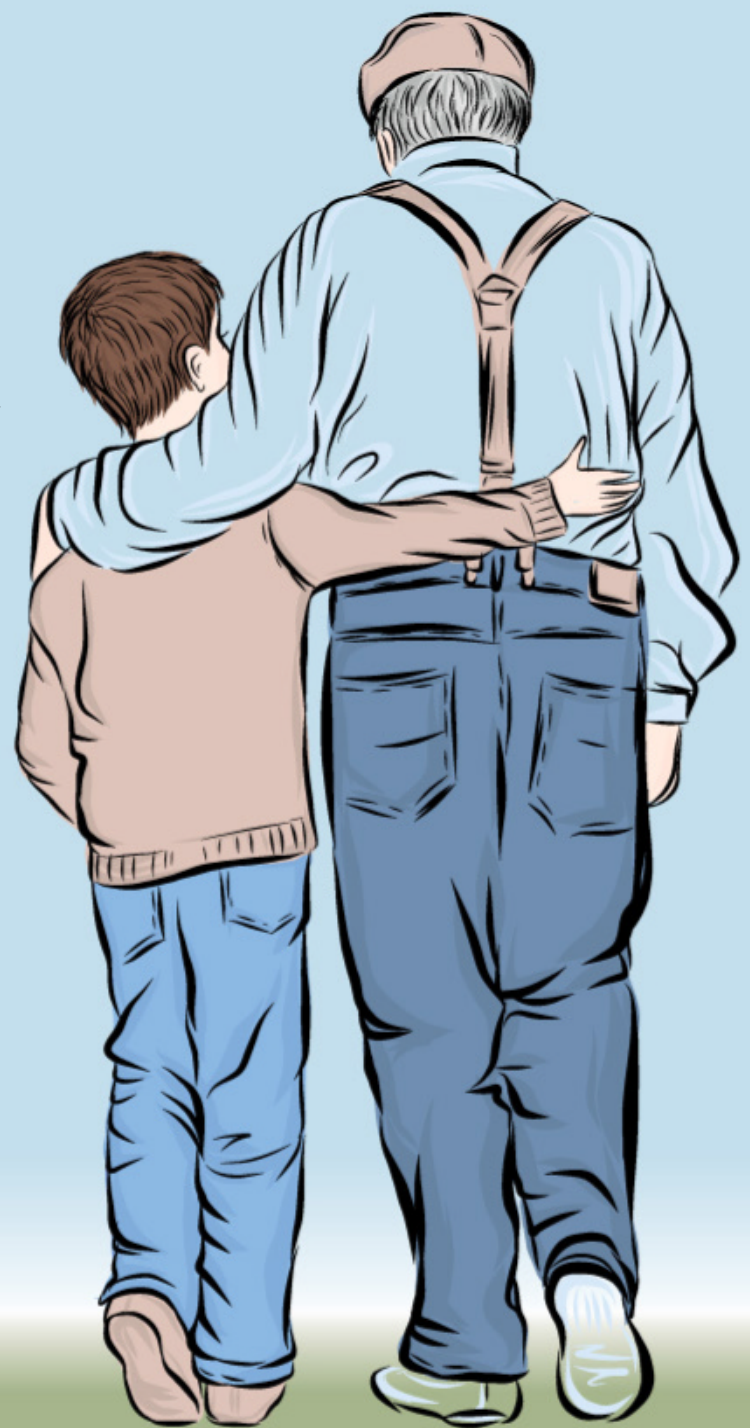
Then, finally, those essentials for any self-respecting youngster fishing in the dark – a torch and a bell for the rod tip. I’ve forgotten how often I’ve heard, and still sometimes hear, that bell in my sleep.

Only when all of these steps had been followed and I had read the catch pages of that month’s Sea Angler one more time,

could I rest easy that I was ready for whatever Saturday may bring, and re-join the rest of the family.

All of these have been slightly tempered and become more sedately habitual now that I have my own shed, yet the magic still remains. With each reel I oil and fill with new line, with every rod ring I check for cracks and all those rigs I tie, I reconnect with that primitive urge for order and organisation that was there in me as a boy, and will remain until I’m no longer able to hold my rods anymore.

Hopefully, that’s many years away yet; if not, so be it. For the time being, at least, I have a bag full of bait, a few hours to spare and a night tide to fish. Now, where did I put that bait elastic...? ■



BE IN CONTROL...



ZORES

4000 / 5500 / 6500 / 8000 / 9000

A powerful, ultra-durable reel perfectly designed for the rigours of saltwater fishing. Available in a variety of sizes to suit all applications from lure fishing for bass to using the larger sizes to control big fish from the surf or on a boat.

- | DFD: Precision Dual Force Drag system
- | 6HPB + 1RB corrosion resistant stainless steel bearings
- | Quick-Set anti-reverse roller bearing plus ratchet system
- | Dual anti-reverse system for maximum security
- | Precision machine cut brass pinion gear
- | CRC: Corrosion-resistant coating process
- | Hydro Block water tight drag seal

okuma
INSPIRED FISHING

WWW.OKUMAFISHING.COM

2023 BOOKING NOW - DON'T MISS OUT!

ICELAND TOP SEA FISHING CENTRES FOR BIG CATCHES NORWAY



Talk to us about Norway - Sea Fishing 2023

If sea fishing is running through your veins - Norway has it all. Stunning scenery, generally sheltered sea fishing, a huge choice of species and a chance to beat your personal best big cod, big halibut, coalfish or wolffish as well as many other species.

Talk to us about Iceland - Sea Fishing 2023

Expect prolific fishing with the chance of really big cod, coalfish, wolffish and occasional big halibut. Haddock and flatties are abundant too. Top action on pirks and shads. Iceland offers one of the best value destinations in Scandinavia. An excellent value destination.

HUGE INTEREST FOR 2023 - TALK TO US TODAY!



01246 221717

Visit our blog for real reports on these and other top angling destinations anglersworld.info



Feature videos available at our channel
www.youtube.com/anglersworldlive



VISIT: ANGLERSWORLD.TV

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Catch a specimen fish to stand a chance of winning some great prizes from Okuma

FANCY WINNING A NEW ROD AND REEL COMBO from Okuma by catching a great fish? In our catch competition, your target is to catch one over the weight given on our nominated species list. If you do, enter our contest and you automatically stand a chance of winning either our shore or boat prize.

Each issue we award a superb Okuma package to the captor of the best shore fish and best boat-caught fish, both chosen on merit.

Prizes are awarded at our discretion and Okuma reserves the right to send alternative prizes.



Patrick Cawley, Cardiff

Fish: 14lb 3oz bass

Bait: Orange firetail jelly worm

Venue: Onboard Sealeopard Charter off Monk Nash, Bristol Channel

Date: 12/07/22



Iain Wilkinson, Isle of Man

Fish: 60lb tope **Bait:** Mackerel flapper **Venue:** Out of port St Mary, Isle of Man **Date:** 05/07/22



Nick Kelly, Plymouth

Fish: 25lb Ling **Bait:** Mackerel

Venue: Onboard Happy Days mid channel wreck

Date: 09/07/22

◀ **Fish:** 58lb conger eel **Bait:** Mackerel

Venue: Onboard Happy Days mid channel wreck

Date: 09/07/22



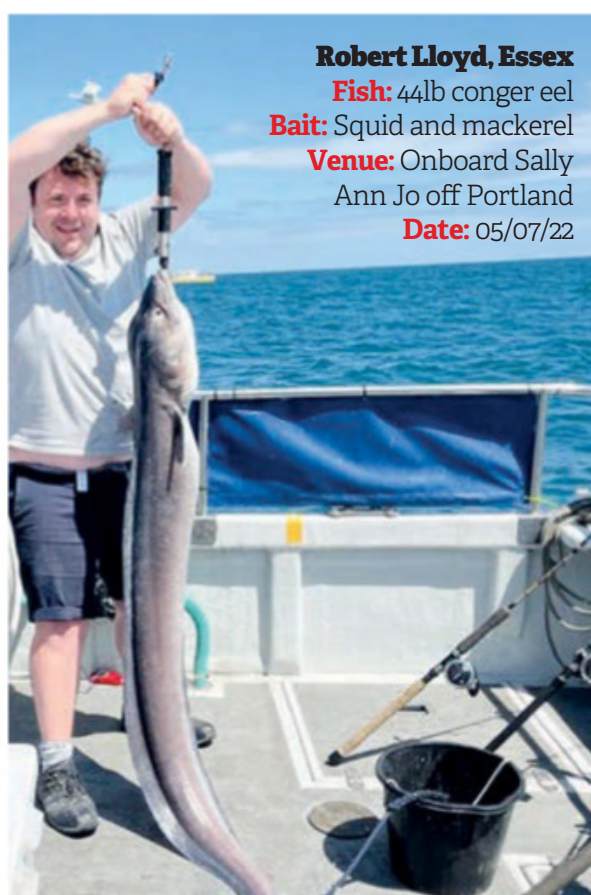
Ashley Williams, Isle of Wight
Fish: 25lb 4oz blonde ray
Bait: Mackerel
Venue: Onboard Voyager south of Needles
Date: 10/07/22



Edwin Pirie, Whitehills
Fish: 15lb 2oz spurdog **Bait:** Mackerel
Venue: Loch Duich **Date:** 14/06/22



Carl Waterson
Fish: 13lb cod
Bait: Shell on prawn
Venue: Onboard Impossible 2 off Seahouses
Date: 23/07/22



Robert Lloyd, Essex
Fish: 44lb conger eel
Bait: Squid and mackerel
Venue: Onboard Sally Ann Jo off Portland
Date: 05/07/22



Tristan Rowe, Newton Abbot
Fish: 10lb 10oz small eyed ray **Bait:** Sandeel
Venue: Jurassic coast **Date:** 29/05/22



Paul Broughton, Manchester
Fish: 15lb 4oz smoothhound
Bait: Squid tube filed with blended maddies
Venue: Holyhead Breakwater
Date: 03/06/22



Paul Wright, Stevenage
Fish: 13lb 8oz undulate ray
Bait: Squid and mackerel
Venue: Onboard Flamer IV out of Weymouth
Date: 14/07/22



Dan Evans, Swansea
Fish: 10lb 5oz bull huss **Bait:** Mackerel
Venue: Onboard the Oystercat off Swansea
Date: 20/07/22

MONTHLY WINNERS:
SHORE: Ashley Bentley, Hull
BOAT: Tim John, Bridgend

MISSION RECORD HOLDERS

BASS

■ **Shore:** 19lb 13oz 8dr
John Locker
■ **Boat:** 19lb 4oz
Wayne Milton

BLACK BREAM

■ **Shore:** 5lb 5oz 1dr
C Le Monnier
■ **Boat:** 6lb 6oz
Tony Heart

COUCH'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 2lb 15oz 1dr
Lynton Carre
■ **Boat:** 7lb Becky
Lee Hodges

GILTHEAD BREAM

■ **Shore:** 9lb 8oz
Scott Smy
■ **Boat:** 10lb 2oz
Roger Simcox

PANDORA'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 1lb 2oz
Baz Wheeler
■ **Boat:** 6lb 10z
Jordan Colwell

RAY'S BREAM

■ **Shore:** 6lb 10z
Jordan Colwell
■ **Boat:** 6lb 4oz
Patrick Meegan

BRILL

■ **Shore:** 6lb 12oz
Mark Griggs
■ **Boat:** 13lb 10oz
Tony Hayward

BULL HUSS

■ **Shore:** 21lb 9oz
M Urquhart
■ **Boat:** 23lb
D Nicholson

BALLAN WRASSE

■ **Shore:** 9lb 4oz
Darren Swift
■ **Boat:** 9lb
Glen Carter

CUCKOO WRASSE

■ **Shore:** 1lb 13oz
Joe Edward
■ **Boat:** 2lb 4oz
D Glendenning

COALFISH

■ **Boat:** 34lb
Peter Sillito
■ **Shore:** 32lb
Adrian Lloyd

COD

■ **Boat:** 49lb
Tony Urwin
■ **Shore:** 66lb 8oz
Andy Eke

CONGER EEL

■ **Boat:** 109lb 8oz
Roger Beer
■ **Shore:** 2lb 4oz 12dr
Jason Tucker

DAB

■ **Boat:** 11b 15oz
Sean McCaffrey
■ **Shore:** 5lb 5oz
Phil Troke

DOVER SOLE

■ **Boat:** 4lb 6oz
M Le-Moignan
■ **Shore:** 4lb 14oz 8dr
Paul Blehs

FLOUNDER

■ **Boat:** 5lb 3oz 14dr
Philip Dawson
■ **Shore:** 76lb
Peter Sillito

LEMON SOLE

■ **Boat:** 3lb 3oz
G Newcombe
■ **Shore:** 2lb 14oz
Philip Lewis

MEGRIM

■ **Boat:** 2lb 14oz
Philip Lewis
■ **Shore:** 6lb 11oz
Martin Coates

PLAICE

■ **Boat:** 8lb 0oz 8dr
M Mowbray
■ **Shore:** 18lb 11oz
Ross McKay

LING

■ **Boat:** 88lb 6oz 8dr
Gareth Laurenson
■ **Shore:** 3lb 8oz 8dr
D Woolcombe

GOLDEN GREY MULLET

■ **Boat:** 4lb 11oz
Stephan Martini
■ **Shore:** 5lb
Gordon Baines

TRIGGER FISH

■ **Boat:** 5lb
Gordon Baines
■ **Shore:** 3lb 7oz
Mark Cundick

MULLET

■ **Shore:** 11lb 8oz
Glenn Lane
■ **Boat:** 11lb
Chris Harris

POLLACK

■ **Shore:** 18lb 4oz
Chris Griffin
■ **Boat:** 27lb 10z
Barry James

BLONDE RAY

■ **Shore:** 31lb
Gary Tucker
■ **Boat:** 39lb 10oz
S Underwood

COMMON SKATE

■ **Shore:** 232lb
Lew Marsden
■ **Boat:** 249lb
Hans Dykman

CUCKOO RAY

■ **Shore:** 4lb 11oz
Kevin Hughes
■ **Boat:** 5lb 8oz
L Longmore

EAGLE RAY

■ **Shore:** 102lb
Ray Lewis
■ **Boat:** 52lb
Chris Wood

ELECTRIC RAY

■ **Shore:** 11lb 10z 5dr
Pierre Garrick
■ **Boat:** 21lb 7oz 12dr
David Bree

SMALL-EYED RAY

■ **Shore:** 17lb 8oz
M Robertson
■ **Boat:** 21lb
Dave Lynes

SPOTTED RAY

■ **Shore:** 7lb 14oz
Liam Warder
■ **Boat:** 8lb 4oz
Neil Buckett

STINGRAY

■ **Shore:** 75lb 4oz
Ed Spring
■ **Boat:** 69lb 8oz
John Styles

THORNBACK RAY

■ **Shore:** 22lb 11oz 10dr
Mike Johnson
■ **Boat:** 24lb 11oz
Gary Mewdell

UNDULATE RAY

■ **Shore:** 20lb 10z
Steve Harder
■ **Boat:** 25lb 2oz
Scott Russell

ANGEL SHARK

■ **Boat:** 54lb
John Johnson
■ **Shore:** 194lb 4oz
Andrew Griffith

BLUE SHARK

■ **Boat:** 253lb
James Fellows
■ **Shore:** 550lb,
Simon Davidson

MAKO SHARK

■ **Boat:** 550lb,
Simon Davidson
■ **Shore:** 350lb
Bob Smith

PORBEAGLE SHARK

■ **Shore:** 28lb 10oz
Steve Cullen
■ **Boat:** 30lb
Trevor Knight

THRESHER SHARK

■ **Shore:** 18lb 14oz
William Roche
■ **Boat:** 27lb 3oz
Paul Westaway

SPURDOG

■ **Shore:** 66lb 10oz
Michael Bell
■ **Boat:** 86lb
David Cook

TOPE

■ **Shore:** 9lb 5oz
Tommy Fraser
■ **Boat:** 20lb 2oz
Eddy Barham

TORSK

■ **Shore:** 32lb 10z
Steve Scally
■ **Boat:** 160lb
Pete Hammersley

TURBOT

■ **Shore:** 20lb 2oz
Eddy Barham
■ **Boat:** 160lb
Pete Hammersley



Shane Cullen, Ireland
Fish: 4lb thick-lipped grey mullet **Bait:** Mackerel **Venue:** Dunmore Harbour, Co. Waterford, Ireland
Date: 24/07/22



Ashley Bentley, Hull
Fish: 20lb smoothhound **Bait:** Prawn
Venue: Aldbrough **Date:** 24/7/22



Dean Francis, Sea town
Fish: 11lb small eyed ray
Bait: Joey mackerel
Venue: Seatown
Date: 01/05/22



Richard Boyd, Hassocks
Fish: 40lb tope
Bait: Squid
Venue: on a kayak out of Bognor Regis
Date: 16/07/22



Lee Polley, Ipswich
Fish: 12.5lb bass **Bait:** Ragworm
Venue: Lowestoft, Suffolk **Date:** 16/07/22



Robbie Wall, Cwmbran
Fish: 15lb 3oz conger **Bait:** Bluey
Venue: Newport **Date:** 15/07/22



Tim John, Bridgend
Fish: 73lb 15oz Tope **Bait:** Mackerel
Venue: Onboard Just Judy out of Swansea
Date: 08/07/22



Tom Robinson, Redcar
Fish: 7lb 10oz bass **Bait:** Squid
Venue: Sandsend car park near Whitby
Date: 22/07/22



Nicky Stokes, Yovil
Fish: 21lb 10oz blonde ray
Bait: Squid and mackerel
Venue: Onboard Offshore Rebel on the Kidney Bank
Date: 5/06/22



Shane Foster, Dorset
Fish: 11lb 2oz smoothhound
Bait: Crab
Venue: St Audrie's Bay
Date: 11/07/22



Helen Povall, Woodchurch
Fish: 16lb 11oz starry smoothhound
Bait: Peeler crab
Venue: New Brighton
Date: 11/06/22



Michael McMenamin, Alnwick
Fish: 9lb 2oz Pollock **Bait:** Shad
Venue: Craster **Date:** 03/07/22



Simon Taylor, Portsmouth
Fish: 50lb tope **Bait:** Mackerel
Venue: Selsey **Date:** 07/05/22



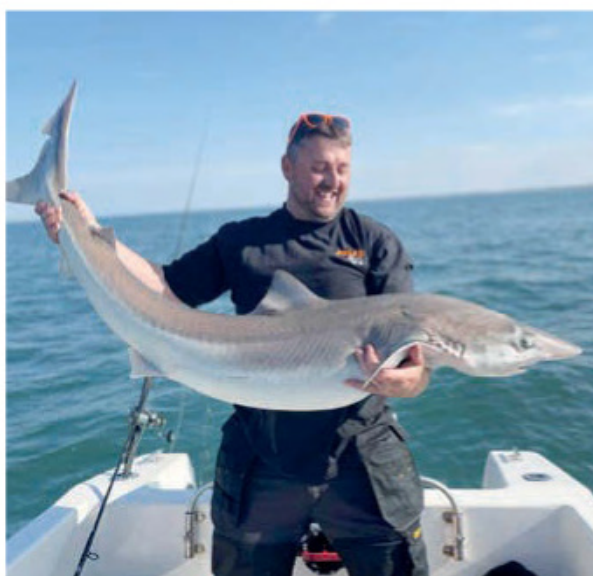
Darren McKell, Southampton
Fish: 201lb skate **Bait:** Mackerel
Venue: Onboard Laura Dawn II off Oban
 Scotland **Date:** 04/07/22



Jason Carter, Eastbourne
Fish: 10lb 6oz smoothhound **Bait:** Squid
Venue: Eastbourne Pier
Date: 05/06/22



Mark Cooper, Portsmouth
Fish: 28lb 12oz blonde ray **Bait:** Mackerel
Venue: Selsey **Date:** 07/05/22



Mark Botterill, Hedon
Fish: 60lb tope **Bait:** Mackerel
Venue: Onboard Osprey off Withersea
Date: 22/06/22



Andy Collings, Weymouth
Fish: 25lb blonde ray **Bait:** Mackerel
Venue: Onboard Chokolom off Weymouth Bay
Date: 22/07/22



Luke McKell, Southampton
Fish: 119lb Skate **Bait:** Mackerel
Venue: Onboard Laura Dawn II off Oban
 Scotland **Date:** 04/07/22



Neil Gainfort, Milford Haven
Fish: 20lb 2oz smoothhound
Bait: Squid
Venue: Onboard his boat off Milford Haven
Date: 27/06/22



Joe Palmer, Christchurch
Fish: 15lb smoothhound
Bait: Squid
Venue: Onboard Millster off Christchurch
Date: 21/06/22



Alex Murdoch, North Yorkshire
Fish: 7lb 12oz bass **Bait:** Ragworm
Venue: Holderness Coast **Date:** 16/07/22



Stephen Phipps, Barry
Fish: 4lb 7oz ballan wrasse **Bait:** Ragworm
Venue: Ramsey Sound, Pembrokeshire
Date: 21/07/22



Oliver Purdom, Lowestoft
Fish: 4lb black bream **Bait:** Squid
Venue: Caught off Portland onboard Fins Up
Date: 14/07/22



Cain Ulyatt, Dover
Fish: 7lb 2oz conger
Bait: Herring
Venue: Deal pier
Date: 23/07/22



Robin White, Halisham
Fish: 5lb ballan wrasse
Bait: Fiiish Black Minnow
Venue: Onboard the Ivy D on Sovereign shoals, Eastbourne
Date: 23/06/22

HOW TO ENTER

Entry by email only to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk
 Please supply these details: angler's name, age, address, telephone number, email, type of fish, weight of fish, where caught, date caught, bait/rig, whether caught from shore or boat, if from charter boat, give name of boat, port and skipper. Please state if the fish was retained or returned.

YOUR MISSION TARGETS...

Catch a fish on this list at the weight or above in your region to qualify for the chance to win prizes in our Mission catch competition.

To enter, send us the details requested above and email that information and your picture to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk.

	SHORE	BOAT
Bass	7lb	9lb
Black bream	2lb	3lb
Red bream	2lb	3lb
Couch's & Pandora's bream	1lb 8oz	1lb 8oz
Gilthead bream	4lb	4lb
Ray's bream	3lb	3lb
Brill	3lb	5lb
Bull huss	8lb	12lb
Cod	7lb	10lb
Conger	20lb	40lb
Dab & megrim	1lb	1lb
Dover/lemon sole	2lb	2lb
Flounder	2lb	2lb
Halibut	20lb	20lb
Ling	5lb	19lb
Mullet	4lb	5lb
Golden grey mullet	2lb	2lb
Plaice	2lb	4lb
Pollack/coalfish	6lb	12lb
Common skate	60lb	100lb
Blonde ray	12lb	17lb
Thornback ray	9lb	14lb
Small-eyed/undulate	7lb	11lb
Ray (other)	3lb	5lb
Sting/eagle ray	20lb	25lb
Smoothhound	10lb	14lb
Spurdog	7lb	11lb
Tope	27lb	35lb
Trigger fish	2lb	3lb
Turbot	10lb	13lb
Wrasse (ballan)	4lb	4lb
Wrasse (other)	1lb	1lb
Blue shark	-	60lb
Porbeagle/thresher	-	100lb

Send us your entries and win some great prizes

■ **SHORE: LURE OPTION:**
 Solaris 4000 or 5000 reel
 RRP: £60
 Epixor 15-50g rod
 RRP: £80



■ **SHORE: BAIT OPTION**
 DSA reel
 RRP: £60
 Wave Power surf rod

■ **BOAT**
 Classic CLX
 RRP: £60
 Cortez Boat Rod
 RRP: £90



THE RULES...

- Only fish caught since July 2022 are eligible.
- We must see a picture of the fish.
- We may refuse an entry. ■ Enter by email only (please include all of the information requested in How to Enter panel) to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk
- Prizes as stated (Okuma reserves the right to send alternatives).
- No correspondence will be entered into.

YOUNG RODS

Sea Angler's celebration of the great angling achievements of its many younger readers



▲ **Edmund Williams**, age three, with a ballan wrasse caught using ragworm in Totland Bay on July 5th.



▲ **Luella Lane** caught this 4lb bass from the shore on her first fishing trip, in Christchurch Harbour, Dorset, using ragworm.



▲ **Tom Baron**, age 14, caught this 5lb wrasse off Salcombe using a keitech custom leach lure on a dropshot rig while fishing off his family boat.



▲ **Evan Wilson**, age four, from Wick. This was Evan's first time fishing and he managed to get a double hook up of coalfish using sabikis.



▲ **Jake Short**, age eight, had a very successful first fishing trip. Pictured with his 2lb 5oz smoothhound that he caught on peeler crab in Deal in Kent. He also caught three other smoothhounds up to 3lb, a dogfish and a pouting.



▲ **Rory Henry**, age six, out catching sea trout on shallow diving lures in Loch Ryan. The fish went home for supper!



▲ **Eilidh Anderson**, age 11, fishing Loch Melfort in Scotland.



▲ **Edmund Williams**, age three, caught this goby on black lug during his first shore fishing experience in Totland Bay, Isle of Wight on July 4th.



▲ **Kyan Evans**, age 13, caught his first tope, weighing 30lb, on the Oystercat from Swansea. It was caught on a running ledger rig with a whole squid as bait. The fish was so big he needed the help of the skipper to pose for the photo.



▲ **Cody**, age eight, with his personal best smoothhound, caught on prawn off the Holderness coast.



▲ **Mason Fair**, age seven, had a great day's fishing and had a double shot of cod using crab and ragworm on his rod.



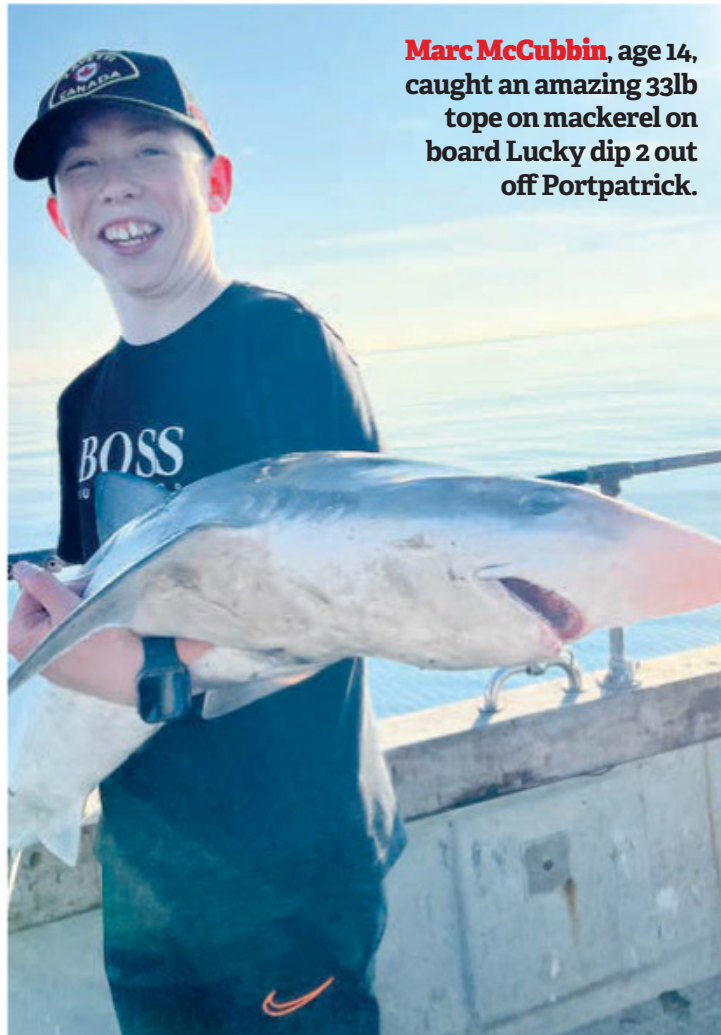
▲ **Riley**, age six, fishing on the Holderness coast caught on squid and crab.



▲ **Jamie Bentley**, age 15, with his personal best smoothhound caught on prawn from Aldborough.



▲ **Robbie Wooderson**, age 13, on his first fishing trip on their new boat caught this amazing 11lb 8oz ling that was almost as big as he was!



Marc McCubbin, age 14, caught an amazing 33lb tope on mackerel on board Lucky dip 2 out off Portpatrick.



▲ **Louis Ludden**, age four, had a very successful day fishing with his dad in County Kerry on July 7th. He caught both a 7lb and a 14lb bull huss using mackerel fillet.

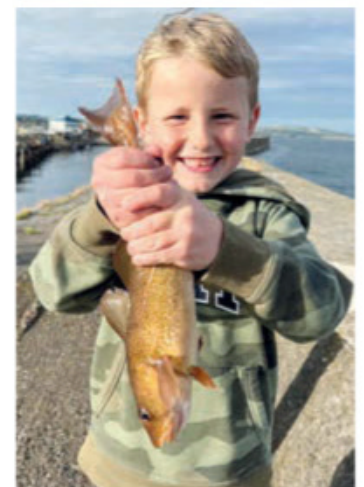


▲ **Jamie Bentley**, age 15, with his first ever thornback ray caught on a pulley pennel rig baited with squid on July 24th.

In association with



▲ **Axel Le Gallais**, age seven, from Guernsey had an awesome session on the shore using white savage lures. He caught a 1lb 12oz mackerel and his first bass weighing 3lb 2oz. Definitely worth the 4am wake up!



▲ **Brayden**, age six, has had a few successful trips out with his dad recently and caught the fishing bug. This codling was caught from Methil docks.

£25 TACKLE VOUCHER WINNERS



Fishingmegastore.com awards a £25 voucher prize to each of two winners - the youngster with the best shore fish and another with the top boat catch. The winners can use the voucher to select tackle from **Fishingmegastore.com** which is based in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

■ Send your Young Rods entries by email to sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk

TRY A SUBSCRIPTION TO

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The UK's longest established hillwalking magazine



Britain's original outdoor magazine is packed full of stunning photography, top class writing and brilliant walking and backpacking routes, along with authoritative gear reviews from the country's most experienced team of testers and essential skills advice from highly qualified outdoor instructors.

GREAT REASONS TO SUBSCRIBE

- ▶ SAVE 66% ON YOUR FIRST 3 ISSUES
- ▶ NEVER MISS AN ISSUE
- ▶ FREE DELIVERY TO YOUR DOOR
- ▶ COMPLETE CONTROL - MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNT ONLINE
- ▶ CONTINUE TO SAVE 22% AFTER YOUR TRIAL

**GO ONLINE AT [SHOP.KELSEY.CO.UK/TGOHA22](https://shop.kelsey.co.uk/tgoha22)
OR CALL 01959 543 747* QUOTE CODE TGOHA22**

*LINES OPEN MON-FRI, 8.30-5.30PM. CALLS CHARGES AT YOUR STANDARD NETWORK RATE.

UK Direct Debit offer only. You will pay £5.00 for your first 3 issues. Your subscription will continue at a rate of £22.99 every 6 months. Savings are based on the standard cover price of £4.90. Offer ends 31st December 2022. Your subscription will start with the next available issue and you will receive 13 issues in a year. Prices correct at time of print and subject to change. For full terms and conditions visit shop.kelsey.co.uk/terms. Data protection: We take great care in handling your personal details and these will only ever be used as set out in our privacy policy which can be viewed at shop.kelsey.co.uk/privacy-policy. You may unsubscribe at any time. *You can unsubscribe at any time.



PASSAGE PLANNING

Heading out to sea for a day's fishing without proper planning brings its risks. Dave Lewis provides some expert advice and navigation skills to help you chart a course out of any potential trouble

An RYA course
will teach you the
navigation skills
you need



Almost every fishing boat today, even the smallest dinghies, will have access to GPS. A valuable aid to navigation, even the most basic GPS unit will deliver you to your chosen mark and then guide you back to safety. But while GPS is an obvious asset aboard your boat, in no way should it be considered as a replacement for a compass.

Likewise, many onboard GPS units today incorporate an electronic chartplotter, and these should never be considered as being a replacement for a paper chart covering the area you fish. Electronics are certainly a tremendous tool when they are working but totally useless if they break down. And, of course, invariably they choose to malfunction when you need them most, such as when you find yourself shrouded in thick fog when it's time to head for home.



“Anyone who puts to sea in charge of a small boat should have an understanding of the basics of coastal navigation. They should be able to plot and extract courses, bearings, latitude and longitude and other information from a traditional chart”

A written plan even for a self-drive trip abroad is a good idea



Buoy hopping involves using buoys as waypoints for safe navigation



THE BASICS

Anyone who puts to sea in charge of a small boat should have an understanding of the basics of coastal navigation. They should be able to plot and extract courses, bearings, latitude and longitude and other information from a traditional chart. Not only is this an essential skill that you'll need to draw upon if your electronics fail, but it will also help you to get the very best from your electronics, by helping you to understand exactly what they are telling you. I recommend that if you are new to boat fishing, book yourself on one of the excellent RYA courses such as Level II, Advanced or Day Skipper.

When I used to skipper my own boats I always carried a small hardback notebook with me. It contained enough information to ensure that should I ever experience a problem, I would have been able to safely navigate my way home, and on two or three occasions my little black book got me out of potential trouble. It contained a hard copy of all sorts of useful information including the latitude and longitude of all of my favourite fishing marks, key navigation buoys, any specific hazards, plus the telephone numbers for local marinas,





Planning your trip will give you peace of mind



A navigation buoy in Plymouth Sound to mark the channel across the water



A GPS and other marine electronics can always find a way of letting you down at the worst moment

tackle shops and the coastguard. Vitally it also contained the compass courses for the safest routes from various ports and launch sites to all of my usual fishing marks, not necessarily straight line routes, but routes that incorporate as many fixed waypoints, typically navigation buoys, as possible.

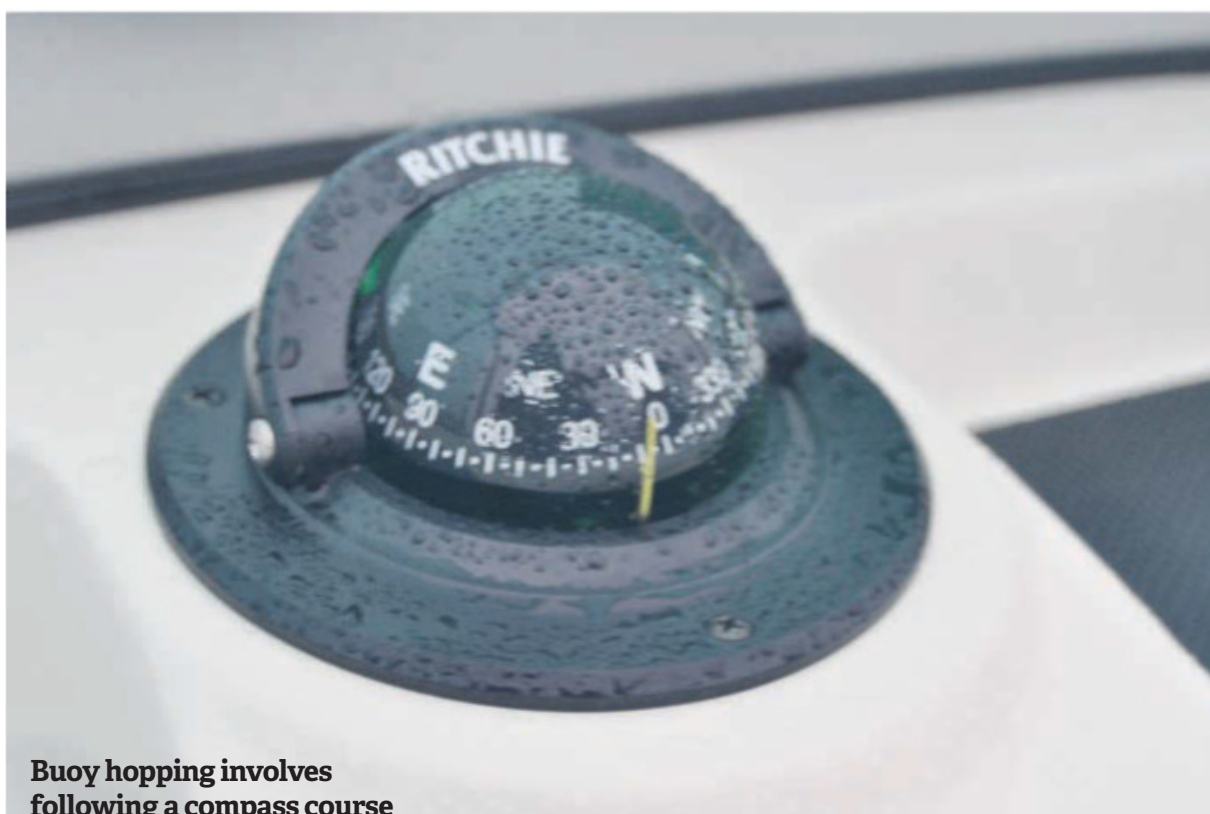
BUOY HOPPING

If ever you have the need to follow a compass course in restricted visibility, then the longer the distance between two known points, the more the likelihood there is of you going progressively further off course. The way to avoid this is to adopt a technique known as buoy hopping, which instead of relying on running long distances in a straight line utilises a series of buoys to act as waypoints that, on arrival, confirm your exact position, before setting off on the next leg of the journey.

A buoy hopping course involves running to a series of navigation buoys following a dog legged course which is invariably longer than running a straight 'as the crow flies' route, but it ensures that when working in restricted visibility you follow a safe route.

It is unlikely you'll follow this course at the start of a day's fishing if conditions are good, but you will follow its reciprocal or reverse course on the way home, if fog comes down and your electronics fail. Even if your electronics are working it is advisable to follow a buoy hopping route in restricted visibility. It is reassuring to accurately confirm your position whenever you arrive at a known waypoint you have been steering for.

Always make a note the type of buoy, including its exact light characteristics, which will help greatly when trying to confirm your position at night. All buoys in close vicinity to each other will have entirely different light ►



Buoy hopping involves following a compass course

characteristics, making it possible to accurately identify them at night. Each buoy is also either named or numbered, making it possible to confirm its identity during the daytime, in dense fog for example.

In order to navigate efficiently from one buoy to the next you will also need to record one other vital piece of information, and that is the time taken to run between them at a given speed. Time is one of the key elements of navigation, indeed being able to establish an accurate time using a chronometer was the final link in being able to establish an accurate longitude.

When buoy hopping or simply when running between two waypoints in restricted visibility, it is important to be able to calculate an expected time of arrival, or ETA, at each waypoint along your route, at a known speed. Clearly if your electronics have malfunctioned you may not be able to determine an exact

speed. However you should know how fast your boat is running at different engine revs, more valuable information worth logging in your book. I suggest you record the running times between as many key waypoints in your area at a set speed/engine revs as you can.

This is a useful exercise to do on a slow day or when running home following a day's fishing when you are in no particular hurry. Time the run between two waypoints at a set speed, ideally the sort of speed you'll likely be running at in restricted visibility, say a maximum of 10 knots. Now should the need ever arise you will be able to make this trip under poor conditions and, by keeping an eye on your watch and the rev counter, you will accurately be able to calculate when you should arrive at the next waypoint.

It is always worth making a written plan if ever you are fishing in a new area, such as when using a self-drive boat on a fishing holiday in Norway or Iceland. Once again making a note of the types of buoys, their light characteristics, courses, distances and times between chosen waypoints. Similarly, it is never a bad idea to actually write down tide times and heights, along with anything else you deem useful along the way, especially significant hazards such as submerged drying rocks, reefs or sand banks, which, of course, should always be given as wide a berth as possible.

Safely operating a small boat at sea is little more than common sense, backed up by prior thought, consideration and prior planning. From my experience having some basic navigational information written down is always a big reassurance, and possibly an immense help. ■

Planning your trip allows you to relax and focus on enjoying the fishing!



A red channel marker buoy

Sidewinder™ Switchblade THE GAME CHANGER



NEW

SWITCHBLADE SPINNERS - ALLOCHROMATIC!

Our Switchblade spinners represent the best you can get when it comes to a high quality metal lure! Designed to be fast retrieved but with a slow fluttering action on the drop they are deadly for all predatory fish.

What is 'ALLOCHROMATIC' Paint?

This revolutionary paint actually changes colour in different lights. If you spin your switchblade in sunlight you will see it change from a Green to Purple colour, just like a fish scale.

All switchblades feature the following:

- ❑ Super Chrome finish with Either Allochromatic Green/ Purple or Pearl colour.
- ❑ Designed in the U.K – Union Jack logo!
- ❑ Stainless Steel Splits rings
- ❑ Stainless Ball bearing Swivels
- ❑ Best quality treble with spare in-line single hook
- ❑ Luminous 'Hot Spot' strike points.
- ❑ Fitted with 'Bubble Box' for air bubbles trail when used!

Available in 15gm - 30gm - 45gm - 60gm

RRP
£5.99



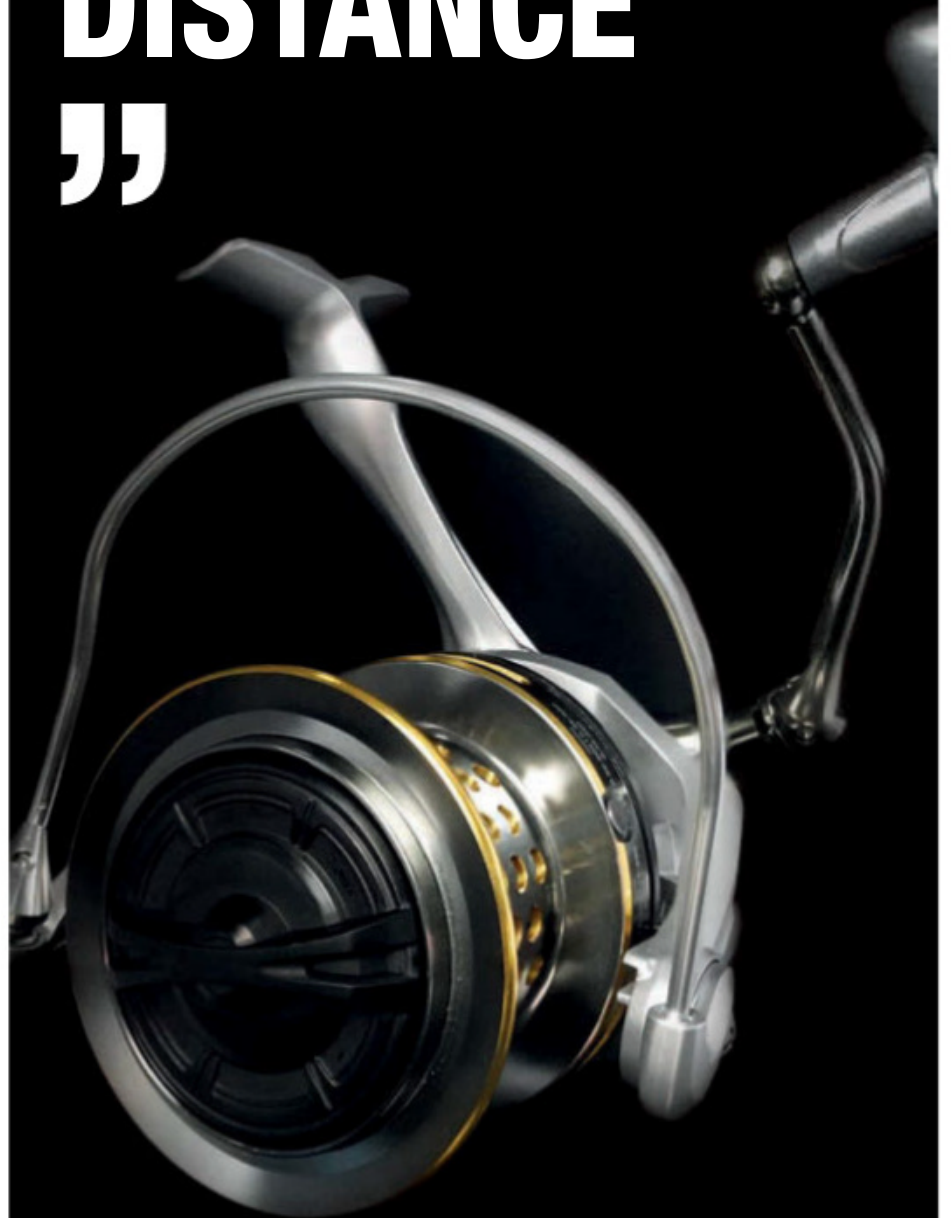
**AVAILABLE SUMMER 2022
FROM ALL GOOD TACKLE SHOPS
sidewinderlures.co.uk**

IRONIXPRO

BANZAI LC

SURF

**“
GO THE
DISTANCE
”**



WWW.TRONIXPRO.COM TRONIXPRO TRONIXPRO TRONIXPRO1



MOST WANTED

TURBOT
& BRILL

Mike Thrussell explains what to look for in order to find and target these two species of super-sized and highly sought-after flatties



Brill prefer coarse sand and gravel

One of the most wanted species yet least caught are turbot and brill. Some English Channel ports, especially Weymouth, have a reputation for still producing fair numbers and some good-sized fish, but it's often the case elsewhere that few anglers deliberately target these prize flatties. Therefore, charter skippers can also ignore them as a target species understandably concentrating on more popular fish. It's all too often a case of "out of sight, out of mind".



Turbot favour sandbanks and fine shingle

There are though, still localised concentrations of both brill and turbot right around the UK coast. These tend to exist in inshore areas where commercial fishing is less prevalent. The Cornish coast, the sand banks that feature off the Welsh west coast, the west coast of Scotland, and especially the south and west coast of Ireland all have their share.

If you feel like experimenting, then look to the banks around the Orkney Islands, the banks off the east coast of Scotland, off Whitby, and even off the Norfolk and Sussex coasts.



Turbot are perfectly camouflaged ambush predators



Mike with a good brill

SEASON

Turbot, you can argue, are caught throughout the 12-month period. April and May will produce, but the peak time is from June through to November with September to mid-November typically giving the best numbers and the biggest fish.

In contrast, Brill are more a summer and autumn species with the main season running from July to November. They are also found in lesser numbers than the turbot, though the two happily seem to coexist with some slight differences.

GROUND FEATURE

Turbot seek out areas where tidal influence creates sandbanks with steeply angled sides dropping into deeper water. The turbot like to face the oncoming tide sitting on the inclines of the bank and intercept prey species as they are swept past. Turbot favour sand and fine shingle, fine enough to allow them to bury or cover themselves for camouflage leaving just their immediate head and eyes to watch for food.

Brill can be resident over coarse sand or a mix of sand and gravel, but they seem to show a definite preference for gravel and shingle cleaning out hollows that they lay in. This is useful information as when using braid lines, the lead will slide over clean sand with just a bump or two when it passes over ripples in the sand indicating a higher chance of turbot, but you can feel the continual shudder and knocks when the ground feature is harder and you're in with a better chance of brill.

Depth needs to be 30ft or more ideally over the top of the sandbank with the angled banks dropping deeper. Even big turbot and brill are commonest in depths down to 175ft, then numbers generally decline. ▶

Turbot also take up residence tight into shallow inshore wrecks. This is another feature that rarely gets targeted and only fished for pollack, cod and coalsies with retrieved lures. If you look at the fishfinder you'll often see sandbanks have built up around the wreck, often more so on one side. These banks are the perfect place for one or two sizeable turbot to take up residence as there is a consistent food supply of smaller pout, poor cod, whiting, pollack, codling and flatfish passing by. If you position a drift to run over these banks you can intercept turbot that no one knew were there.

TIDES

The area you're fishing and how the tides effect it are key to catching turbot and brill. In fast tidal areas the smaller neap tides will obviously be favoured offering a slower drift speed so the ground feature can be fully covered, and the bait presented correctly. Areas with a lighter tidal influence may be fishable on the bigger spring tides, but sandbanks are formed by more powerful tides, so the neaps tend to



Use 20lb to 30lb braid for drift fishing

be the ones fished. For drift fishing you don't want tidal speeds of much more than 2-knots or so. Above this the fish have issues catching baits up.

Both species like some flow in the water, so expect the period when the flow first starts to pick up to be the most productive with bites easing away from mid tide towards high water. It's the same on the ebb with the first flow often seeing the better fishing.

Without doubt, on smaller banks, turbot, and to a lesser extent brill, will move from one side of the sandbank to the other as the tide is slack. Occasional fish will be caught as they make this transmission. However, I'm not convinced they all do. I think the bigger fish feeding on bigger prey like whiting and flatfish, probably eat in short bursts then lay-up staying in one productive place waiting until the tide turns again by simply turning their heads to face the tide flow. If you take note, it's often just one side of the bank that tends to produce the better fish indicating this to be the case.

WEATHER PATTERNS

In water depths of 100ft or less, then rough weather and prolonged heavy seas can disturb large volumes of sand and sediment. In this instance the turbot and brill will move off the banks and out into deeper water for a period. It takes a few tides for them to return.

The best weather pattern is a period of light onshore winds combining with relatively clear seas, a steady barometric pressure and tides on an upward cycle. If you can time a trip just prior to a big pressure drop with rising tides, this can see a major increase in catches.

Bright sunlight can also be an issue when fishing shallow banks with a cloudy more overcast day giving better fishing. A light wind to put a ripple on the water surface is perfect as it reduces light levels entering the water column.

TACKLE

Tackle is dictated by the speed of the drift and the depth of water you'll be fishing. In light tidal areas where leads of no more than 80zs or so are needed to stay in contact with the seabed, then a 12lb class outfit fishing a light reel holding 300yds of 20lb braid plus backing will give great sport and still plenty of power to land a bigger fish.

Use light tackle
when possible

Most areas will require leads between 6 and 12ozs and for this a 20lb class rod matched to a modern compact multiplier holding 300yds of 30lb braid and backing is the better choice. In deeper water, say over 150ft, go for a 30lb class rod and the same reel as for the 20lb class.

It pays to remember that both turbot and brill are mainly sight feeders, so add a fluorocarbon leader to the end of the braid, say around twice the length of your rod or a little more. On the 12 and 20lb class go for a 30lb leader, and on the 30lb rod use a 40/50lb leader.

For drift fishing the round watch leads are popular as they kick up spurts of sand as the lead is dragged along. Personally, I prefer the heavier carp leads used for positioning baits from boats or in rivers, often referred to as "tractor tyres" these weigh up to 12ozs, have deep tread beads moulded on them and are shaped like a pear. They drop through the water column, stir up sand and fish extremely well, way better than the round watch leads.

RIGS

A simple sliding ledger rig is best constructed by sliding a Zip Slider boom onto the fluorocarbon leader, then a 5mm bead, and tie a size 2 swivel to the end of the fluorocarbon. The hook length is then tied to the free eye of the swivel and should be between 36 and 60in in length and from 30 to 40lb fluorocarbon. Drop the rig through the water column slowly, and when the lead hits the seabed, lift the rod tip up sharply 3ft and this will pull the hook length straight for perfect presentation. ▶

Mike with a nice turbot caught using a mackerel strip



PENN Fathom 15LD reel, ideal for turbot and brill fishing



30lb fluorocarbon for turbot and brill hook lengths



Carp tractor tyre leads are good for drift fishing





Mike uses tractor tyre carp leads

Alternatively, replace the Zip Slider with a long plastic boom which in slacker tides and deeper water can help prevent the hook trace from wrapping around the main line.

A lot of anglers use long shank Aberdeen hooks for turbot and brill, but it's better to use a Viking pattern with a shorter shank. Long shank Aberdeens can connect in the inner mouth but still with the shank and eye outside the mouth. This can result in line leverage pulling the hook free. A short shank Viking reduces this possibility.

Adding a spoon with a few beads below it can work in shallower water. It's a mistake to have the beads and spoon touching the hook though. It's a better presentation if you position the spoon on the main hook trace. Now add 12-inches of 40lb fluorocarbon, a series of beads, then the hook and bait. This presentation allows the spoon to revolve more freely and presents the bait more naturally just below the spoon. ABU Rauto or Sakuma spoons are good in shallower water, as are silver coloured spoons in all sizes.

BAIT

Fresh mackerel cut into white belly strips between 6 to 8in in length are very effective. Frozen mackerel also works but is not as good. Small poor cod and pout cut as a flapper with the backbone cut out, flapper whiting and big launce all work well. Pass the hook twice through the thick end of the strip pushing the hook point in through the skin side first, then back through the length of the hook from the flesh side. Add a few turns of bait elastic to hold it in place if you think it necessary. The strips work best for general fishing. However, if you think there are bigger fish present, use a whole fillet.



Fishing on the drift is far and away the most effective tactic



**Reverse
mackerel
flapper**

If you use frozen mackerel make it more mobile and visual by adding a long sliver of white squid. This flutters well in the tide and will draw fish into the bait.

A fresh launce sandeel can be deadly, especially if you drop the hook length down to 20lb fluorocarbon and change the hook for a smaller 2/0 pattern. Reducing the weight of the hook trace and hook lets the launce move around more naturally in the tide.



Live launce are the number one bait



Keep them alive in well-oxygenated water



Both species have large mouths to ambush and engulf passing fish

TACTICS

If you're positioned on the side of the boat facing into the direction of the drift, use a lead heavy enough to keep your line vertical and the lead touching the seabed all the time. If you let the lead drift under the boat too much, you'll tangle other lines.

If you're on the opposite side of the boat facing away from the drift direction you can use a lighter lead and let more line out to get a shallower angle of line for better bite detection, plus reduce the chance of tangles. Use a lead that just keeps contact with the seabed but when you lift the rod a foot or two, you can spill off a few feet of line and slowly trot the boat further away from you. Occasionally pause the retrieve by releasing a little line as this will give a chasing turbot or brill the chance to catch up and eat the bait during faster drifts. Keep changing the size of the lead weight as the drift speed changes to maintain this balance.

It can also pay to pull the rod tip back a couple of feet now and then. This sees the bait accelerate forward then drop back. Turbot especially will take a bait as it drops back during this manoeuvre.

Hold the rod and feel the lead dragging over the seabed. Braid is very sensitive, so ignore steady bumps, knocks and taps. Grab it type bites from both a brill and a turbot on faster drifts will be a slow increase in rod tip pressure then a kick. These fish are usually well hooked. During slower drifts bites tend to be a series of taps. When this occurs, release a few feet of line to give the fish time to fully take in the bait. Re engage the reel, let the line come tight and just let the increasing bend in the rod set the hook for you. There is no need to strike!

Turbot and brill both fight by trying to get their heads down and making short head thumping dives. They will also turn their bodies sideways to the current increasing pressure. Make sure you have your drag set so that line can be given freely when needed. Use a gentle touch of the thumb to add more pressure if you need to. ■

WIN A PENN BOAT FISHING PACKAGE

Sea Angler is offering one lucky reader the chance to win an amazing boat fishing package from PENN

**WORTH
£240**

The winner will be kitted out with a 7ft two-piece 20-30lb Pursuit IV rod and 6000 size fixed spool reel combo worth £124.99. The Pursuit IV rod features a sensitive blank and is finished with K-type guides while the Pursuit IV reel features a durable and corrosion resistant graphite body and powerful HT-100 drag system.

Not only that, but you'll also get your hands on a foldable PENN EVA bag worth £46.99 to keep your tackle and belongings dry, a PENN cool bag worth £28.99 to keep your bait and catch fresh and a PENN rig wallet worth £41.99 containing 12 removable wallets.



Don't miss out on this opportunity to win this high-quality boat fishing package! To be in with a chance to win, simply enter for free online at

www.seaangler.co.uk/win

Terms and conditions: Entries close at 23.59 on 17/9/2022 and the winners will be drawn on 22/09/2022. The winner will be notified within 28 days of the close of entries. The draw is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Entry is free. Open to residents of the UK aged over 18. Employees of Kelsey Media and their family members are not eligible to win. Only one entry permitted per person, no bulk entries will be accepted. There is no cash alternative and the prize is not transferable. If any prize or product is lost or damaged during the course of delivery to the recipient, Kelsey Media will provide reasonable assistance in seeking to resolve the problem. However, it will not always be possible to obtain replacements for lost or damaged goods, and in that event, no financial compensation would be payable by Kelsey Media or their affiliates. We reserve the right to cancel the competition, if circumstances change that are beyond our control. By entering you agree to be bound by all the rules and agree that your surname and country may be published if you win.



PORTISHEAD MARINA **PROFILE**

With good autumn and spring runs in the upper reaches of the Bristol Channel Portishead Marina is one of the best locations in the UK to target codling as well as a range of other species, as Dave Lewis explains

Portishead is a typically modern marina complex that you'll find located on the north Somerset coast, just a few miles down channel from the Severn bridges. It is perfectly located to provide convenient boat access to the productive fishing grounds of the upper Bristol Channel. You only have to drive over either of the twin Severn bridges when the tide is out to view the type of ground over which anglers fish. The entire area consists of a vast expanse of inter-tidal mudflats along with large areas of reef, in addition to numerous sizeable patches of mixed, hard and broken ground, much of which is dissected by deeper drainage channels. It might look a mess but such terrain provides a hugely rich feeding ground hosting an abundant population of shrimp, crabs, marine worms and small fishes, along with plenty of other fodder upon which fish feed.



**Portishead
Marina at
sunrise**

Fishing with the Severn crossing in the distance



CAUTION

Before we continue, a few words on safety are necessary. The run of tide on even the smallest neap tides at this end of the Bristol Channel is fierce. In certain places it can be truly horrific, especially on spring tides. The worse scenario will be encountered when the wind is in the opposite direction to the flow of tide, when conditions very quickly become nothing less than dangerous. The area immediately below the first Severn bridge is known as The Shoots, and is best avoided at all times. There are many areas that dry out at low tide and given the heavily coloured water navigation is at best hazardous. Until you get to know the area observe and follow all buoyage, in addition to your depth sounder and charts.

TARGET SPECIES

In years gone by the Bristol Channel was widely regarded as being one of the very best areas for autumn and winter cod in the UK. Sadly, those golden years of the 1990s and the beginning of the new millennium are long gone, but each autumn and winter codling do arrive, and some of the most productive grounds are located very close to Portishead Marina. Further, in recent years the spring run of cod experienced in this area during March and April has been very productive. In addition to cod, boats fishing out from Portishead target thornback rays, conger, bass, whiting and sole. In recent years several species once unheard of this far up the channel, including both smoothhounds and blonde ray, have increasingly been caught by anglers.

TACTICS

Not that many years ago anglers fishing throughout the Bristol Channel would have fished almost exclusively uptide, and uptiding remains the classic way to present a bait in the generally shallow, fast flowing water. More recently the almost universal acceptance and



Portishead produces a good run of spring codling still

use of modern micro thin, non-stretch braided lines has seen many anglers revert back to downtiding, as these make it possible to keep a bait fishing effectively on the bottom using relatively small amounts of lead. Some old school anglers, myself included, still favour uptiding, but the choice is entirely down to the individual. Provided you are anchored over the right sort of ground and using good quality bait presented hard on the bottom, you will catch fish.

BAIT

Your choice of bait depends upon your target species. For cod, blow lugworms or either fresh or frozen black lug tipped with squid is the number one choice. Other very effective bait for cod and other species include unwashed squid, which is very effective in these heavily coloured waters where fish rely almost exclusively upon scent to locate food. Various types of fish bait work well for rays and conger, and of course peeler crab is deadly for bass and smoothhounds. King ragworm is the bait of choice for those looking to target sole during the summer and early autumn.

MARKS

One of the most productive areas for cod and whiting is often referred to as 'The Tanks', named after the huge storage tanks located on the adjacent shoreline near the mouth of the River Avon a very short run straight out from the marina locks. This is shallow water where often you'll be anchored in less than 20ft of water adjacent to the main channel. Other productive grounds are located in the vicinity of the sandbanks that flank the main deep water shipping channel to the west of Battery Point such as The Welsh Hook. Anchoring on the side of the bank in relatively shallow water will help avoid the severe run of tide for which the area is noted.

Fishing in very shallow water over the mud and peat flats off the Welsh coastline between the mouth of the River Usk at Newport and The Severn bridges is productive for sole, rays and bass, but until you get to know this area take extreme care as vast areas completely dry out over low water.

Boat owners need to be aware this is a busy commercial shipping route, especially for very large vessels such as car carriers. For obvious reasons avoid anchoring anywhere near the main deep water channel, especially around high water when these ships are moving through. ■

NEED TO KNOW

Portishead Marina is very conveniently located just a few minutes' drive from the M5 south of Bristol, the Gordano Services exit at junction 19.

For the latest information on exactly what is being caught and where, and to order excellent quality bait, contact Reel Fun tackle shop at Portishead Marina. Tel: 01275 848652 Web: www.reelfunfishing.co.uk

One charter boat, Channel Explorer, currently operates out of Portishead Marina, contact Chis Buxton for more information on 07804 241017.

Private boats less than 7m in length and weighing less than 1.5 tonnes can be launched directly into Portishead Marina using a slipway. The cost for use of this facility is £29.72, which includes secure parking and transit through the marina lock gates. These locks are dependent on tides and are generally operating for about three hours either side of high water, slightly longer on neap tides.

Portishead Marina operates on VHF Channel 80.

For more information on the marina and facilities available: Tel: 01275 841941 Web: www.boatfolk.co.uk/portishead-marina-bristol



Anchoring accurately over a wreck or reef will get you into the black bream



WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

When there are plenty of fish and they're in a feeding frenzy any old bait and gear will catch. But when the going gets tough what can you do to stack the odds in your favour?

Well, there are a number of things that will possibly help on the day and by dotting the Is and crossing the Ts methodically you will know you are doing your best and it will inspire you with confidence.

LOCATION

The first and most important thing, as in several aspects of life, is location-location-location. It's pretty obvious you won't catch anything if the fish aren't there. It's often hard enough catching them when they are there. So what can you do on this one? The first things to realise is that

fish will follow the food and basically want a life that is as easy as possible. So where will the food be? There are classic cases like follow the birds! The birds are there feeding on the small fish shoals that predators like mackerel and bass chase to the surface. Lures dropped in the feeding frenzy will guarantee results. Easy because you can see what's going on, but what if you can't see the action?

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

There's no substitute for local knowledge of marks, tides, baits, tackle, species and techniques. So if you are new to the sport or area then ask around. Joining a local club is often

a short cut to tips and knowledge, or maybe a trip on a charter boat. Experienced anglers can study an admiralty chart or the detailed topography charts on GPS plotters to highlight potential spots.

THINK LIKE A FISH

Where's my food? Your quarry will likely be in the downward slope or bottom edge of a bank or rip where food is washed over the top and the tidal strength drops. Fish like bass are often in the turbulent water running over a bank or rip while others prefer open broken ground to forage for food. Look for banks, gullies, rips, holes or rocky areas as likely areas to try. ►



Bass will use gullies, rips and sandbanks to ambush prey in the tide run

Having found some spots that you think have potential, spend some time on the water and survey them for bottom characteristics such as bottom hardness, rough bottom, slope and holes, and mark them on your plotter as waypoints.

MAKE A PLAN

With your boat positioned uptide of the zone that you marked as a waypoint on your plotter screen you obviously need to let out sufficient line for the baits or lures to fish the hot spot, but how much? Consider the depth of water and how far back you want the gear. For example if you are in 30 metres of water and 30 metres uptide you will need almost 45 metres of line out but if 30 metres uptide and 5 metres of water only 31 metres. Therefore, think about your situation and work out a plan to let (x) amount of line off the reel. I use braid for all my fishing and its available in several different colours, so fill the reel with backing and approximately 100 metres of braid. Then, to fish for example 30 metres back, top off with 25 metres of a different colour braid and 5 metres of 40lb monofilament leader. Do not worry about braid knots being a weak point or interfering with the tackle, it won't, but it goes without saying the knots must be perfectly tied Albright knots and trimmed neatly. Braid has no stretch and little tide resistance so the 30 metre mark will be 30 metres back.

TACKLE


Rods and reels are an important consideration depending on your area and target species. To get maximum sport from the fish a lighter class rod will be an advantage, but if you are fishing deep areas with heavy tide runs needing large weights then heavier class gear will be needed. Best guide is to fish as light as practically possible. If you are buying a new rod then get the best you can afford and ensure the guides are suitable for braid, otherwise the guides will wear and damage the line. Similarly with reels, select a size that is suitable and balanced to the rod. Consider size class, line capacity, retrieve ratio and quality. Lots of bargain basement stuff will fall to bits in no time and might let you down when that fish of a lifetime is hooked.

DRAG

Probably the most important part of the reel for boat fishing is the often underestimated drag. (beach boys priority is casting performance). Decent reels have good, smooth performing drags and this must be adjusted to a suitable setting with the tackle in use. Far better to have a smooth drag lightly set to allow the fish to run than a knotchy unreliable drag that's too tight. You have probably heard of the macho angler that tightens his drag so the fish "ain't gunner get line from me" and then tells you about the monster that broke free. Remember to slacken the drag off at the end of the fishing trip and reset it next time otherwise it will stick and lose its smoothness.

Bull huss will patrol reefs, wrecks and broken ground





The length of anchor rope and depth of water will determine how much line you need to be fishing over your mark

“Don’t be in a hurry, let it down slowly and under control so that the terminal tackle streams downtide of the weight”


In terms of line, braid has many advantages over monofilament. The downside is it is a lot more expensive but in relation to the cost of a day’s fishing – travel, bait, breakfast, beer and curry the night before – it’s a no-brainer. If you are boat casting, braid can be an issue with poor casting skills and mono is a suitable line but for fishing downtide the thin diameter, no stretch, high bite sensitivity and smaller weights required are big advantages. 30lb braid will cover most of your needs.

LEADS


A selection of weights in suitable sizes to cover the range of neap and spring tides will be needed and a useful tip is to colour code them with coloured insulating tape to identify different sizes. Leads are quite expensive, particularly in the larger sizes, but do get a couple of each size you are likely to need. Mr Macho will tell you “I always use a pound lead and then I know it’s on the bottom”. Missing the plot again, mate! Balanced terminal tackle is what you need and a weight that will just hold bottom or let you gently trot it back in the tide searching the area is perfect. As the tide increases, increase the weight and vice versa, or use a lighter weight to purposely fish further back.

TANGLE FREE

A few thoughts on lowering the tackle down. If you end up with an occasional tangle you are doing something wrong. There’s nothing worse than your mate has a fish, you patiently wait, and wait, reel up to re-bait and then find a tangled trace. It could be the terminal tackle, a spinning bait or poor technique lowering the gear. Don’t be in a hurry, let it down slowly and under control so that the terminal tackle streams downtide of the weight. If you drop too quickly the weight will plummet to the depths leaving the trace above it with a risk of tangles. When the weight touches down with a satisfying tap, gently raise the rod, lower and let off line till it taps again. Repeat until it settles in position but check periodically that it’s still in bottom contact and adjust the weight as necessary. A possible problem when using a flowing trace is that the trace and bait will flow horizontally along the bottom with the tide so as the weight taps the bottom, the bait can foul some weed or a rock. To avoid this potential problem, with balanced tackle (the weight just right for the tide) and with experience you can drop the bait in the zone without repeated tapping down. To do this lower away gently, raising the rod up and spill off more line, raise again spill off more line, ►



The most important part of the reel for boat fishing is the often underestimated drag



Success is well earned when it comes after you’ve done your homework!

repeat until you estimate you are near the zone (coloured line nearing the end) and then drop to feel the bottom tap. One or two more slight adjustments might be needed.

THE BUSINESS END

The business end of the tackle – what we call the terminal tackle – is our next important consideration. There are endless combinations of running ledger, bolt rigs, fixed rigs, single rigs and multiple rigs. Multiple rigs have the advantage of fishing different baits on each hook or catching more than one fish at a time – something the competition angler will favour – but for sporting simplicity I always prefer a single hook rig. I'm not amused to see buddy

Let your rig down slowly to avoid spinning and tangles



winching up two skate at once with the very prospect of a breakage. Similarly, drifting through a bass shoal with multiple hook-ups on feathers and several bass thrashing about on the deck damaging themselves and hooks flying about is not fish friendly. Try light gear with one lure and enjoy the fight. A single mackerel caught on light gear gives great sport with this powerful fish.

The terminal tackle is made up with several components: line, hardware and hooks. Modern advances with line technology has given us monofilament lines with different characteristics such as good abrasion resistance, thinness, supple, stiff, memory free and almost invisible fluorocarbon which is an ideal choice for traces and hook lengths. When using 30lb main line a good choice will be 25lb fluorocarbon monofilament trace and hook length.

HOOK CHOICE

The sharp end gives us endless choices of hook styles, sizes and combination rigs and a whole book could be written on this but a few rigs cover most scenarios. A flowing trace with lugworm as bait could be a multiple dropper rig fishing for small fish with size one Aberdeen style hooks. A pennel hook length rig using two equal suitably sized (3/0) hooks to present a large black lugworm bait neatly or maybe a wishbone rig with different length droppers to present two separate baits that will also fish as one large offering lying together on the seabed.

Fishing a live bait either off the bottom from a french boom or as a running trace is best fished with a circle hook (5/0) carefully hooked through the centre of the lower jaw and out through a nostril to cause minimum stress to the fish. Whiting, mackerel, scads and pouting all make good livebaits and if handled carefully will last for hours. Needless to say, the hooks must be sharp so change them regularly or keep them sharp. Please don't use stainless steel hooks that potentially remain in a lost fish for eternity; go for chemically sharpened ones which really are razor sharp straight from the packet.

For your weight link, keep it simple such as a zip slider, link swivel or maybe a 6in boom and use a bead to protect the knot from the sliding link. Use good quality stainless steel swivels in a suitable size (1/0) to make up the trace and tie up with decent knots such as the uni-knot with neatly trimmed tag ends. You can now purchase little sleeves that slide over the knot and swivel to protect the knot and streamline the tackle.

The size and type of bait you use will predetermine the rig and hook sizes you use but remember that bait presentation is key. Don't rig the bait so that it will spin in the tide or serious tangles will occur. Cut off dead bait tails and use shearing elastic to neatly lash the tasty offering around the hook(s).

Give some forethought to the fish you intend to catch. Are you going to keep it? Be familiar with the size limit and the current catch quota and humanely dispatch it with a priest or in the case of skate a single knife blade cut in the head.

If you do your homework, survey your area, think like a fish, practice your anchoring skills and fish efficiently you'll greatly increase your skills as an angler and in no time at all start seeing the results. ■



Colour coded leads make it easy to switch when the tide changes

Lining up at anchor over a productive mark





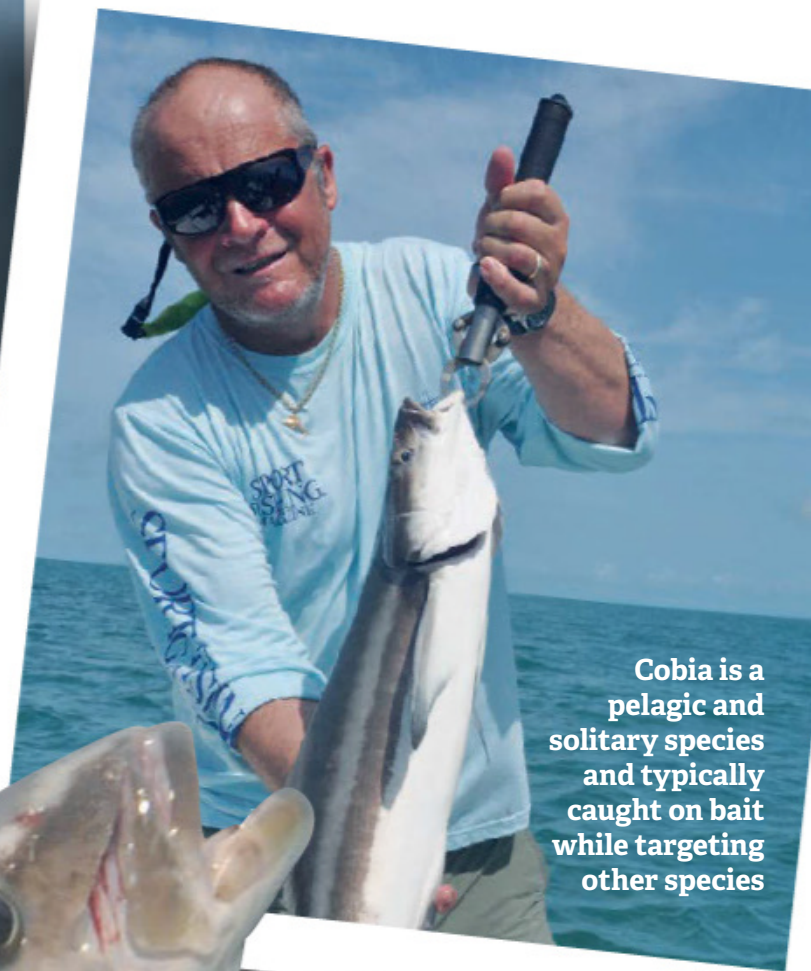
Depending on where in the world they are caught the cobia, *Rachycentron canadum*, are also known as black kingfish, black salmon, ling, lemonfish, crabeater, prodigal son, codfish and black bonito. Cobia are normally solitary, except for annual spawning aggregations when large numbers of fish congregate at reefs, wrecks, harbours, buoys, and other structural oases. They are pelagic by nature, but occasionally enter estuaries and mangroves in search of prey.

Cobia are found in the warm-temperate to tropical waters of the western and eastern Atlantic Ocean and throughout the Caribbean, as well as in the Indian Ocean off the coast of India and Australia, and off the Pacific coast of Japan. Cobia have been recorded in the Mediterranean Sea, firstly off the coast of Israel in 1978 and more recently as far west as Libya in 2019. These fish have almost certainly reached the Mediterranean by migrating through the Suez Canal from the Red Sea. The current IGFA All Tackle record for cobia is held with a fish that weighed 135lb 9oz, caught off Western Australia in 1985.





The typical size
of a Florida
cobia but the
IGFA record is
135lb 9oz



Cobia is a
pelagic and
solitary species
and typically
caught on bait
while targeting
other species

Other than at one or two specific locations, cobia are a difficult species to target. An occasional fish can and often does show up throughout their entire range. These are usually caught by anglers fishing baits and, just occasionally, lures while targeting other species. Both live and dead baits are very effective for cobia, with any type of locally available baitfish almost certainly inducing a bite from these aggressive predators. It is often possible to sight fish cobia, and when this is the case casting a bait in front of a fish will result in an instant strike. Jigs tipped with prawn or even a freelined prawn cast in the vicinity of a fish are unlikely to go ignored.

Florida is an especially productive area for anglers looking to catch cobia, which are invariably present around many of the offshore reefs and wrecks, notably in the shallow, slightly coloured water of the Gulf of Mexico. It is here that anglers often get the opportunity to sight fish, using prawns mounted on jig heads as described above.

One other area where cobia are prolific and often caught in large numbers by anglers is off the coast of West Africa. Fish caught here are often of a much larger size than the average caught in Florida, which is probably in the region of 8-20lb. Cobia caught off the coast of West Africa, and more specifically Guinea Bissau, are commonly encountered in the region of 30lb, and are occasionally weigh up to as much as 70lb. Once again, wrecks tend to be the most effective holding structure, with livebaits producing most fish. Cobia are an incredibly strong and surprisingly fast species of fish, and a lot of the larger fish hooked in the vicinity of structures are lost due to snags. It is essential to use appropriate tackle and fight the fish hard.

Elsewhere in the world cobia are often encountered swimming alongside whale sharks or manta rays. This is very much the case off the coast of East Africa, and, once again, a strategically placed lure will invariably result in a hook up. Apart from providing excellent sport, cobia is a fine fish to harvest for the table! ■

SEA SCHOOL

Our experts solve your fishing problems

Q & A

SHORE ANGLING



ASK THE EXPERTS

When sending your question, please remember to include your name and address



JAMES MADSEN

Bristol Channel angler James Madsen is here to solve all your shore angling problems.



DAVE LEWIS

Based in Newport, South Wales, our contributing editor Dave answers boat fishing questions.



JOHN HOLDEN

A Sea Angler contributor for over four decades specialising in casting and rod building.



HENRY GILBEY

Angler, blogger and photo-journalist Henry, based in Cornwall, is our lure expert.



BEN BASSETT

The Plymouth angler and blogger will provide answers on the sport of light rock fishing (LRF), the go-anywhere tactic.

HOW TO ASK US A QUESTION

Email: sa.ed@kelsey.co.uk
or online: facebook.com/seaanglermag

By asking a question you are giving us permission to use your name and where you live in all versions and platforms of this magazine.

Q Please can you recommend some decent mackerel feathers? I like a bit of mackerel bashing during the summer months but I've been having problems with my feathers. The bodies on the feathers keep snapping which is ruining my fun and I'm worried I might kill someone with a wayward lead weight!

CHRIS RICHARDSON, KENT

JM says: You are right to be cautious about rig breakages, especially when fishing on beaches full of holidaymakers in the warmer months of the year. When it comes to selecting mackerel feathers it can be a bit of a minefield and there are so many different ones available to us in the tackle shops. One of the key things to think about when selecting your mackerel feathers is deciding what sizes of lead weights you will be casting. As a rule of thumb, you should allow 10lb breaking strain for every ounce of lead you are going to cast. For example, if the breaking strain of the rig body on my feathers was a 30lb breaking strain,

then I wouldn't cast a lead weight heavier than 3oz. Sometimes breaking strains are measured in diameter instead of pounds and ounces. In that case I would allow 0.10mm for every ounce I was going to cast. Another example, if my rig body was 0.60mm, I wouldn't cast a lead weight heavier than 6oz. Another thing to check are the knots on the rig bodies of your mackerel feathers. Sometimes the cheaper mackerel feathers can be really poorly made. I recommend checking the knots first; you could give them a good tug with your hands and if they break either re-tie the knots or return them to your place of purchase.

Q My fishing mate guesstimates the weights of our fish. To be honest, he can be a little over generous and it can be a bit embarrassing at times. I've heard about these length to weight conversion charts that they use in fishing competitions. How do they work and are they very accurate?

JIM JONES, SURREY

JM says: That's right, a lot of the top match organisations in sea fishing now use a length to weight conversion system in their competitions. Okay, so they are not completely accurate because you are only measuring the length of the fish and not actually taking into account its girth. Obviously, fish come in all different shapes and sizes. Some fish, for example, could be a lot fitter before spawning and then much leaner afterwards. Nevertheless, I have witnessed firsthand how good these conversion charts can be and they are often very accurate, give or take a few ounces either way. A conversion chart is a really simple system to use. Different fish species are either listed individually or grouped together in different categories. Most

WINNING QUESTION



fish, apart from rays, are measured nose to tail. More often than not, rays are measured across from wing to wing. All you need to do once you have the length of the fish is find it on the chart and you will be given a weight. I would recommend trying to get hold of the conversion chart used in the Southern League and Open competitions, as their chart is really comprehensive, covering a huge range of different fish species and the weights are pretty accurate as well.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Rapala

Sufix

Q I've recently taken part alongside you in the Reel Fun League this year at Littleton-upon-Severn. It's been a good series again but I've been having a few problems losing fish. Last match I lost a 2lb conger. It spun near the bank and came off the hook. Are Kamasan B940s (it was a size 2) a suitable hook as this happened in the last match as well, or is it just bad luck if they spin when their head comes out of the water? I did not have a gully to drag it up, so I tried to net it instead.

ALAN JENNER, SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

JM says: Yes it's been great seeing you fishing the league again this year. Sorry to hear you've been losing fish, Alan. It's been a pretty hard series and losing fish like that has proved very costly. Firstly, there is nothing wrong with your hook choice. We are mainly using worm baits so an Aberdeen pattern of hook is a good choice. Netting conger eels is pretty difficult and can end in disaster, especially when the captor is trying to net the fish himself. More often than not, the net gives the eel a better chance of escape, causing it to spin and even getting caught up in the mesh. If it was me with a conger of that size, I'd simply lift it out of the water on the rod tip. You have to be careful mind you and lift the fish out from the side in a steady arc. Be warned, do not lift a fish like that straight up, because allowing the rod tip to come down on itself can often cause breakages. For me it's also a matter of confidence, and there is no room for delay. If I see it's a small conger like that, I'd have it in and out of the water in a matter of seconds.



Q I've been struggling to catch much lately. Can warm settled weather have a detrimental effect on fishing? I love the sun but I'm not keen on staring at a motionless rod tip.

TERRY PAISLEY, SUFFOLK

JM says: Weather can have a massive effect on fishing and that counts for all the different disciplines of our sport. It's not unusual for sea fishing to drop-off in the warmer, more settled months of the year, that is with regards to certain species, on different venues around the country. For example, extreme heat can be really detrimental to natural sources of food, like mudworm, shrimp and even crabs. Lack of natural food sources in the more shallow water inshore could drive fish further out into deeper water. Crystal clear seas and really long bright days can be a recipe for disaster, particularly for the smaller less predatory fish. Lack of rainfall can also have a negative effect on our fishing, especially when it comes to some estuaries which usually remain pretty murky until we have long periods with

no rain resulting in clear bands of water. Mind you, having low counts of rainfall isn't always a negative thing in estuaries, because less rain can also result in a higher salt content in the water. Sometimes you will find the more oceanic species like bull huss, rays and smoothhounds will swim further up an estuary because of the higher salt content. Smoothhounds are becoming a firm favourite target species in the warmer months of the year and they don't seem all that bothered about feeding in the daylight when the sea is really clear. I don't know what fish species you are actually targeting, but having a go for smoothhounds could be a better option for you. Otherwise, I would target your fishing in the early morning or evening, as they can often be good periods in the day when the fish can become more active.



WIN SUFIX AND RAPALA PRIZES WORTH £195

To coincide with Sea Angler's 50th anniversary we've updated our great prizes

SHORE WINNER:

- Two spools of Sufix tritanium
- One spool of Superior leader
- Two spools of shock max leader
- RRP: £65



BOAT CATEGORY:

- One spool of Sufix Matrix Pro 250m braid
- A bracelet of sufix invisiline
- RRP: £65



LURE CATEGORY:

- Five Rapala Max Rap Lures
- RRP: £65

Prizes are subject to stock availability. Actual prize may be slightly different to those shown



Rapala

To view the full range of Sufix and Rapala products, visit:
www.sufixfishing.fishing and www.rapala.co.uk

T&Cs: * One prize per winning question will be chosen by the editor. Prizes cannot be exchanged and no correspondence will be looked into. We reserve the right to send alternative prizes.

SEA SCHOOL

Our experts solve your fishing problems

Q&A

BOAT ANGLING

WINNING QUESTION



Q When towing another boat how long should the tope rope be, and at what speed should the tow boat run?

NEIL CARTWRIGHT, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

DL says: As far as I am aware there is no definitive length of tow, but from experience I'd say somewhere in the region of about 30-50ft is about right. More specifically, you need to ensure the tow rope is long enough to give you time to take any necessary action, should you be forced to make a sudden stop. The key issue regarding the length of tow rope and towing speed is to ensure that at all times you maintain a smooth, steady pressure to prevent the rope from snatching, which can stress and damage tie off cleats. This is easily accomplished in calm conditions but does need some adjustment in choppy seas.



Q Are rigs intended for shore fishing suitable for use afloat?

GEOFF EVANS, ANGLESEY

DL says: Many shore rigs are ideal for boat fishing. For example, two or three hook paternoster rigs are perfect for fishing baits, both at anchor and on the drift. I know several very experienced anglers who when uptiding use either a single hook paternoster or pulley rig, rather than the conventional running leger.

Q I want to try bridle rigging a mackerel onto a circle hook for tope and shark. How is this achieved?

STUART LAMB, WORCESTERSHIRE

DL says: There are several ways to bridle rig a bait, which in addition to offering a perfect presentation with both dead and live baits, invariably results in a solid hook set. You'll find plenty of 'how-to' videos online, but to start try using this quick and easy technique that uses a plastic cable tie to attach the bait.



Q I always try to release large fish such as tope and sharks in the water rather than boating them; however, occasionally fish come to the boat wrapped in the leader. What is the best way to deal with these?

BRIAN POTTER, KENT

DL says: Keep the fish in the water as long as possible, only boating it when you are ready. The deck should be cleared to avoid the fish damaging itself when it thrashes about. Wear a decent pair of gloves and unless the hook can be easily removed cut the wire trace as close as possible to the fish's mouth. Keep the fish out of the water for the absolute minimum of time.



Q Given that most boats have at least one GPS unit aboard, plus several mobile phones, is it really necessary to also have a compass?

ALAN LITTLE, WEST SUSSEX

DL says: A decent compass is arguably the single most important piece of navigation equipment you can carry aboard any boat. It doesn't rely on a power source or signal strength in order to function and will never let you down. I regard a compass as essential aboard any boat.

Q Blow lugworm is a great bait for many summer species, but it never seems to last more than a couple of hours before turning into a soggy mess. Any advice on keeping the worms in a healthy condition for longer periods?

STEVE SMITH, CHESHIRE

DL says: The worms must be kept cool and moist at all times, and in summer a cool box is essential for this. Lay the worms on top of several sheets of newspaper that have been well soaked in sea water and placed on top of a couple of frozen cool packs. Separate any broken or sickly looking worms and either use these first or discard them. Keep the box out of direct sunlight and replace the lid immediately after you have selected a new bait.



Q & A

LURE FISHING

Q Could you ever see a time when you go bass fishing with soft plastics only?

CHRIS DIGBY, NORTH WALES

HG says: In many respects that's a yes from me, but there are situations such as heavy surf conditions with plenty of wind in my face when I'd struggle to fish it properly without a metal lure like the Savage Gear Seeker. I have caught plenty of good bass on a wide variety of different hard lures, and like many of you here I do love a smashing surface take from a bass, but without a doubt I fish with soft plastics a huge amount more than I used to because they give me so many options and they help me cover so much different ground. I also far prefer the use of a biggish single hook (barbless for me) compared to trebles, and of course it's far cheaper if you snag and lose a soft plastic compared to a good quality hard lure.

So if we take heavy surf fishing out of the mix and think about all the lure fishing for bass I do together with the marks in the UK and Ireland I might fish, then with what I know about soft plastics and the variety of rigging options, I could just about use soft plastics all the time. This doesn't mean that I want to, I might add, rather that there really are so many different types of soft plastics and we are far more aware of all the different techniques these days.

A shallow diving hard lure can do wonders for me on the sort of shallow reef so many of us like to fish, but even then there will no doubt be certain parts of that reef that I can't effectively swim a hard lure through. This is a classic example of when soft plastics can do all that a hard lure can do for me in a situation like this. Good soft plastics like

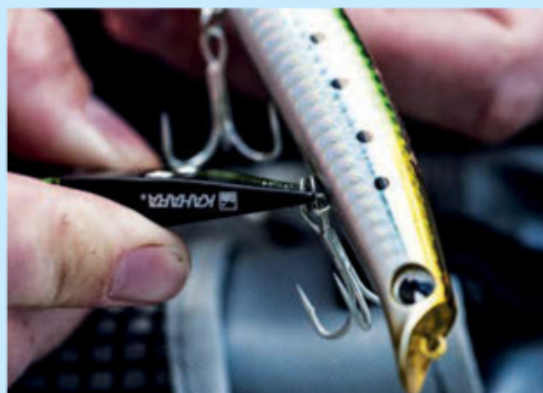
these can also cover a lot of water and cast surprisingly well, but confidence is a big thing in bass fishing, and I do accept that some anglers don't feel confident enough if their lure doesn't feel like it's doing a huge amount on the retrieve. In general, soft plastics are more subtle - which I really like - and you need to trust that subtle can often be good in bass fishing. When your hard lure is rocking and rolling around it does feel appealing though, but what do the fish want? I am convinced that less is so often more in bass fishing.



WINNING QUESTION

Q How do I stop the hooks on my lures from rusting up so quickly?

CRAIG RICHARDS, DEVON



HG says: If I think back to my bait fishing days then I would wash my gear down after use and I would very rarely expect to get multiple sessions from the same hooks if I hadn't lost them to snags. But, of course, we spend good money on bass lures and we expect them to last as long as possible. How often do we change the treble and single hooks though, and do we expect too much from them when we wouldn't expect the same kind of life from bait hooks?

If you want to prolong the life of the hooks on your bass lures then you are at least going to need to wash your lures in freshwater after use, and then

you are going to need to dry them. I can't imagine life without these rather clever washable lure boxes which you can simply submerge in a sink of freshwater and then leave them to drip dry, but if you are going to leave the lures alone for a period of time then I would take them out of the boxes and properly dry them out.

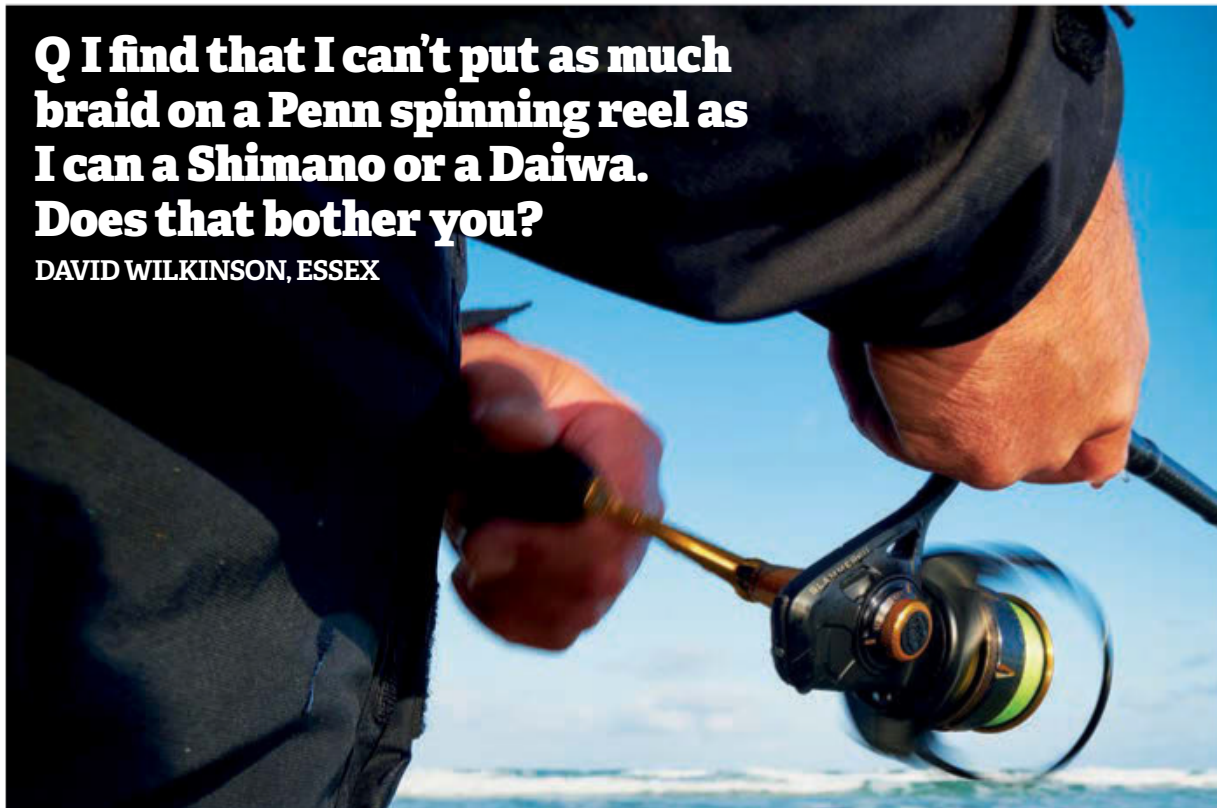


If you pre-rig a lot of soft plastics with weedless hooks then the first signs of rust you will tend to find will be around the eye of the hook where the corkscrew is. Soft plastics like the Savage Gear Gravity Sticks deliberately have a high salt content to add weight for casting, and this does combine with saltwater to promote rust on your hooks. I don't pre-rig lures like these anymore, but in reality the cost of good weedless hooks isn't that much and it's not as if they rust up very quickly anyway.

Keep an eye on your hard lures because some brands use better quality treble hooks and split rings which resist rust better than others. I refuse to compromise on my hooks when it's the single thing I need to be performing perfectly. Any signs of damage or serious rust and I change the treble hooks and split rings.

Q I find that I can't put as much braid on a Penn spinning reel as I can a Shimano or a Daiwa. Does that bother you?

DAVID WILKINSON, ESSEX



HG says: With the kind of lure fishing I do I sometimes need the protection against saltwater ingress that the Penn Slammer reels give me. I really like that they are such solid and trustworthy spinning reels. Penn reels do tend to have a few quirks though, and if you want hassle-free lure fishing with braid then you would be well advised to slightly underfill them and live with it.



I do also love a lovely smooth Shimano spinning reel as much as the next lure angler, but I would never use a Shimano if I thought my reel was going to get drowned in the surf for example. With a Shimano or a Daiwa spinning reel though, I know that I can fill it right up with braid and not worry about any line management issues. I hear all the arguments about a full spool of line giving more distance on the cast, but my lures go out just fine on the Penn reels I use, and I catch plenty of fish on them. Rather than worry about slightly underfilling a Penn spinning reel I would personally be concentrating more on a good casting style which properly compresses a lure rod.

Q & A

LIGHT ROCK FISHING

Q I'm looking to get into LRF with my 12-year-old daughter, she loves to go fishing and I want to do something more accessible for her. I have an old Sonik LRF rod 3g to 12g; I used to use it for perch on the canal; would this be suitable for dropshotting or jigging around harbour walls and piers?

MICHAEL CALLAGHAN, KILLIBEGS

BB says: LRF is a perfect way to get the kids fishing and often very safely too. The rod you have sounds fine for the job and robust enough for more clumsy hands too. I would recommend dropshotting just below the rod tip along a harbour wall; the weight of the dropshot will help your daughter control where she is but you should still get plenty of bites. This time of year is excellent for mackerel too so well worth casting out a metal jig for them, it's much more fun than using feathers for them and easier for younger anglers to handle too.



Q Even if kept in the liquid does the isome scent go after a while? I'm asking because today a lot of micro pollock would follow my isome but not bite – I put a bit of rag on as a test and instantly got bites and hook ups.

WILL BACON, BRISTOL

BB says: When trying to build confidence using artificial baits and lures it's easy to fall back into the comfort zone of bait. The truth is that fresh ragworm will outfish any artificial worm for obvious reasons, but the skill is to trick the fish into thinking your bit of plastic is the real thing. The best way to do that is to improve your presentation. Smaller hooks and lighter weights can help make the fall appear more natural, whilst using more muted colours can improve the fish's confidence. Other times it's best to go the opposite direction, fish something loud and fast, whip it past their nose to create excitement and an instinctive bite.

Q I want to get some nano metals for The Big Lerf event. I've never used them before. What are the best weights and do you work them like a regular jig?

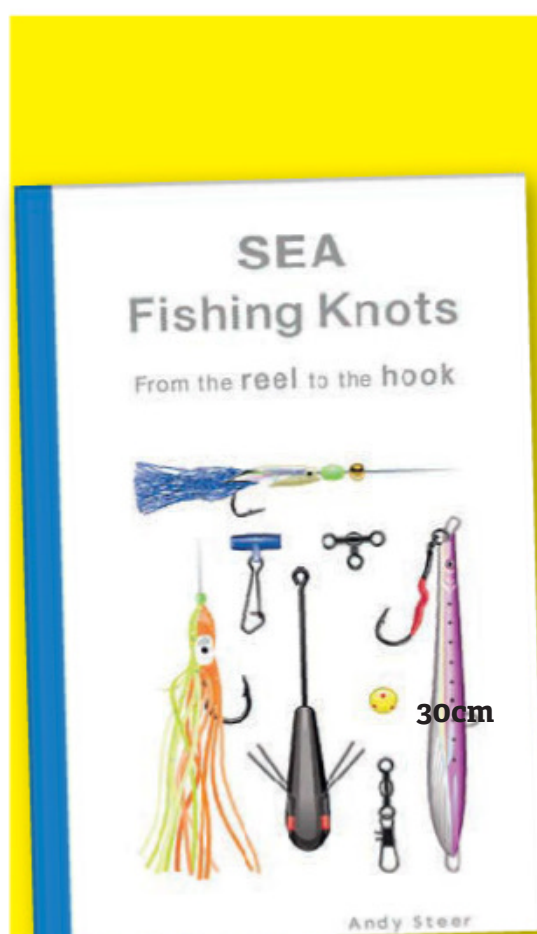
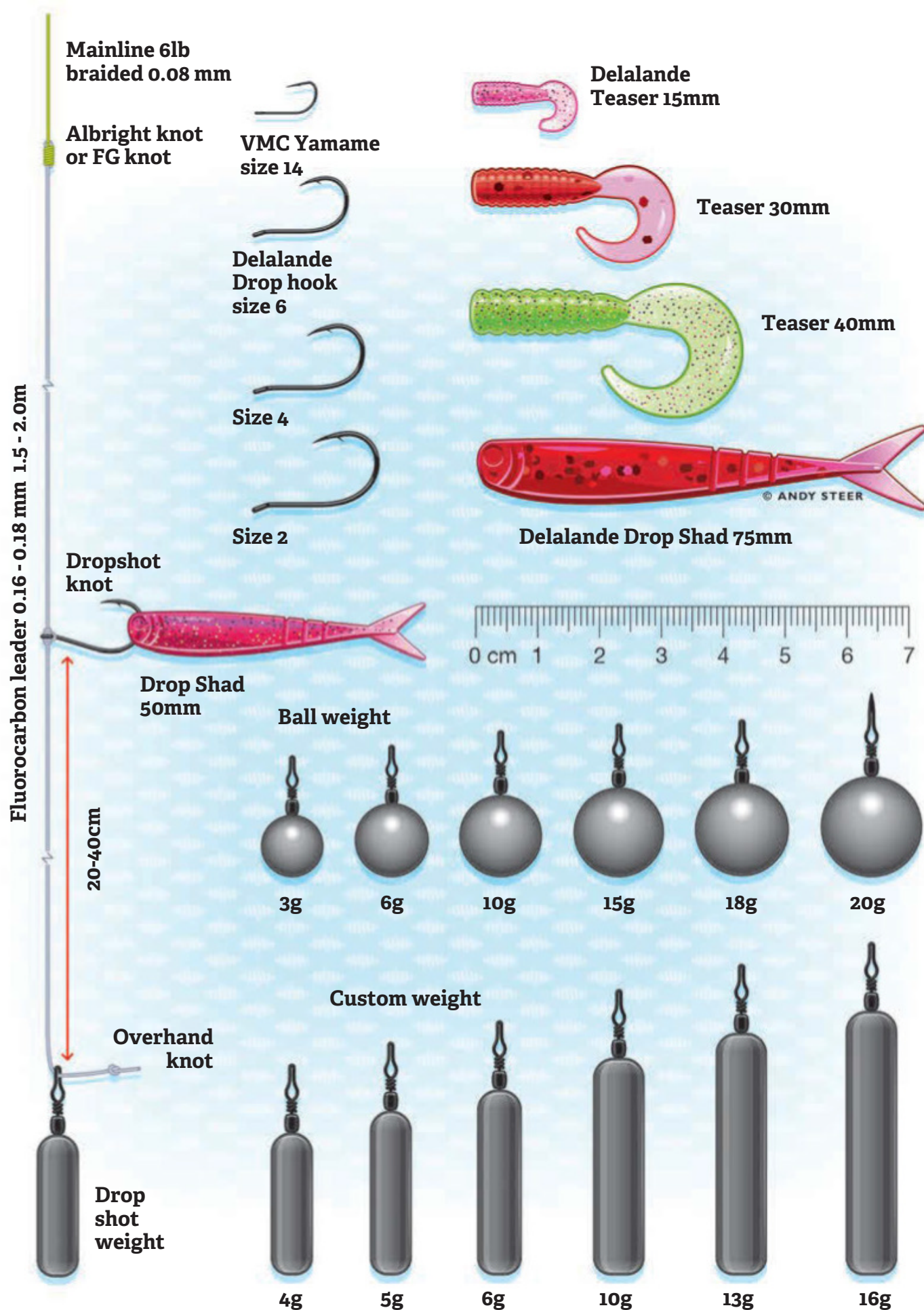
WAYNE MORGAN, PORTSMOUTH

BB says: The Majorcraft Nano Aji Metals have been a revelation in the LRF scene and it's easy to see why, they catch both the fish and the angler with their bright colours and cartoonish design. I really love using the lightest sizes; 0.6g, 1g and 1.5g catch most species including some you may not expect. The larger sizes are effective for mackerel, scad, flatfish and bass. You can use them like a regular jig with a straight retrieve or sink and draw, or by fishing them ultra-slow, similar to how you would a jighead with a soft plastic. The trick when species hunting with them is to trust the attraction of the jighead and fish it ultra-slow; it may surprise you what will take one.



THE DROP SHOT RIG

The drop shot rig is a very effective method of presenting a lure close to the seabed and keeping it in 'the zone'. The current of the tide will ensure the lure continues to fish while it remains stationary. An additional advantage fishing rock marks and rough ground is that the lure is not retrieved, and snagging is therefore minimised. The use of ball or column weights which clip on to the line also helps to minimise tackle losses. By adjusting the distance of the hook to the weight you vary how close to the bottom you fish. The drop shot rig can be fished with a variety of soft lures such as shads, worms and paddletails. It is an effective method for all sizes of lure including HRF and LRF (as in this illustration).



SEA FISHING KNOTS - FROM THE REEL TO HOOK

Contains clear, concise, easy to follow step-by-step knot-tying illustrations by Andy Steer of recommended sea fishing/big game fishing knots and set-ups.

This publication should help you to gain a solid base of reliable, tried and tested knots, enabling you to land more fish. It will also help you protect the environment and save money by losing less tackle.

Disclaimer: No responsibility in any way is accepted for incidents arising from the use of this material.

Paperback: www.amazon.co.uk/dp/9071747271/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_9M.MFbWMHPV9S
eBook: www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B00S72QYX0/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_FK.MFbZ4TKN89

Words: John Holden Images: Sea Angler

CHANGING WEIGHTS

John Holden explains how a more versatile fishing rod allows you to change casting weights to match the conditions, and how to alter your set-up accordingly

All things being equal, it is easy and safe for a 150g outfit to handle 25g less and 50g more lead. In old money, that's one ounce down and two up, thus covering most fishing needs. Neither man nor kit should break into a sweat, and except with highly specialised rods there is little risk of the blank snapping even with much greater loads.

Things being equal means using a casting method where pressure builds fairly slowly over a generous arc, plus using an appropriate outfit. These are key factors in all good casting, but especially relevant when we want to use one outfit to handle a broad range of weights. A thrashy style on an over-meaty rod makes it harder to achieve a clean launch regardless of the weight, but dropping to 125g on 150g gear is likely to cause severe control issues.

At the other end of the spectrum, a compact, quick style that we might get away with for 150g on a tournament-style rod bites back hard when we step up to heavier ammunition. It may provoke a vicious reaction that has the caster whimpering on the shingle and sucking a wrecked thumb.

I learned long ago that I had to make a choice. Did I want to use a high-performance 150g casting rod for fishing, knowing that fishing lighter or heavier would be a challenge? Or would I do better with a more versatile rod which, although still excellent with 150g, makes it easy and pleasant to vary weights according to the fishing? I have always taken the fishing route. My serious casting rods never go to the beach.

ALTERATIONS

If I start fishing with 150g and conditions change, upping the load to as much as 200g calls for only a few small alterations. The leader drop increases a little, I don't use quite as much body turn in the set-up, and if I'm fishing reel high I'll probably increase the hand spacing a couple of inches. The other step - and probably the most useful one for most people regardless of casting weight - is to slow the whole thing down.

I'd much rather use a lighter rod for the smaller sinkers, but when needs must I follow much the same pattern: longer drop, smaller arc, slow down except for a bit of a flick at the end. This isn't about distance because I normally step down only when I want the lead to roll rather than sit tight. It's generally short-range work, which being so puts the emphasis on clean bait delivery. Sole fishing in flat water is one example.

Looking into the technicalities of upping and downing the load shows that, like every other aspect of casting, it's really all about creating the right preload to make the rod bend properly, adjusting the set-up to alter the timing, then delivering the necessary power at the right time. The major differences between rods is that some are more willing to cooperate than others. My fishing rods let me do exactly that. My field rods are so focused on a single weight that they simply don't play ball. Horses for courses. ■



Follow all the latest news, catches and photos from Century on [facebook.com/Century.Sea.Fishing](https://www.facebook.com/Century.Sea.Fishing)

READER OFFER

GET INTO SEA ANGLING

**BUY ONE OUTFIT
FOR £29.99
+ £6.99 POSTAGE**

**BUY ANY TWO OUTFITS
FOR £59.99 POST FREE**

**BUY ANY THREE OUTFITS
FOR £79.99
POST FREE**

Grab a bargain with our special offer thanks to our partners at Fishing Megastore who are offering you the opportunity to get kitted up with high quality but affordable entry level beach, boat and mackerel fishing set ups from Shakespeare. Save an incredible £70 off the RRP when you buy all three and get postage for free!



SHAKESPEARE FIREBIRD BEACHCASTER 12FT 4-8OZ ROD + REEL COMBO (RRP 49.99)

The Shakespeare Firebird rod and reel combo is a two-piece mid-action rod with a fixed spool reel that comes pre-spoiled. Easy to put together and use, it's ideal for kids and beginner or intermediate anglers, or as an affordable backup or occasional use rod.



SHAKESPEARE FIREBIRD BOAT COMBO RHW 7FT TWO-SECTION 20-30LB RRP (£49.99)

This boat rod and reel combo is great value for money. Ideal for someone just starting fishing as it gives you a good chance to experience the thrill without a big bill. The reel is loaded with 30lb line and features a level wind, easy to use star drag, a power Handle and fully resistant to saltwater damage.



FIREBIRD MACKEREL 10FT 4-6OZ ROD + REEL COMBO RRP (£49.99)

The Firebird Mackerel combo is ideal for targeting shore species from beaches, piers and jetties. The 10ft 2pc rod casts 4-6oz and features a modern abbreviated EVA handle, cushioned DPS reel seat and titanium oxide insert double leg guides. The combo is completed with a Firebird 60FD front drag reel, pre-spoiled with 20lb mono, ensuring you've got all the hardware to get out fishing!

THREE EASY WAYS TO ORDER

- 1. LOG ON** to the link gac.fishing/00192SA
- 2. CALL** 0141 212 8880 and quote 00192SA
- 3. BY POST** Glasgow Angling Centre, Unit 1, 29 Saracen ST, Glasgow G22 5HT, quote 00192SA

**RELY ON
SEA ANGLER
TO BRING YOU
GREAT TACKLE DEALS
EVERY ISSUE**

FIRST LOOK

Your update on the latest gear arriving in the tackle shops



BERKLEY DEX STICK SHADD

Available in 11cm and 18cm options the DEX stick shadd is a must-have deep-bodied sinking stick bait for the serious saltwater angler chasing big sea bass, pollock or other saltwater predators whether in the UK or overseas. The streamline shape aids long casting and the power keel ensures an enticing erratic swimming action.

Features:

- Length 110mm/180mm
- Weight 39gm/124g
- Depth 0.5m - 3.7m/0.9m - 6.1m
- 2 x #1 Berkley Fusion SW trebles

■ RRP £9.98



TRONIXPRO BANZAI LC REEL – BLACK EDITION

Ideal for clean beach fishing and for pairing with any Tronixpro fixed spool rods, the reel features a durable corrosion resistant graphite body with machine cut aluminium handle and soft grip ergonomic knob. It comes with deep and shallow machine cut aluminium spools and benefits from shaft gearing for more torque and zero movement when retrieving and playing fish.

Features:

- 8000 size
- 7+1 bearings and a 4.4:1 retrieve ratio

■ SSP: £89.99



RATING SYSTEM

Our testers and reviewers use their experience to evaluate the quality and functionality of tackle to provide independent, credible and authoritative advice for our readers. On some pages, you may see the following endorsements

SeaAngler
EXPERT
CHOICE

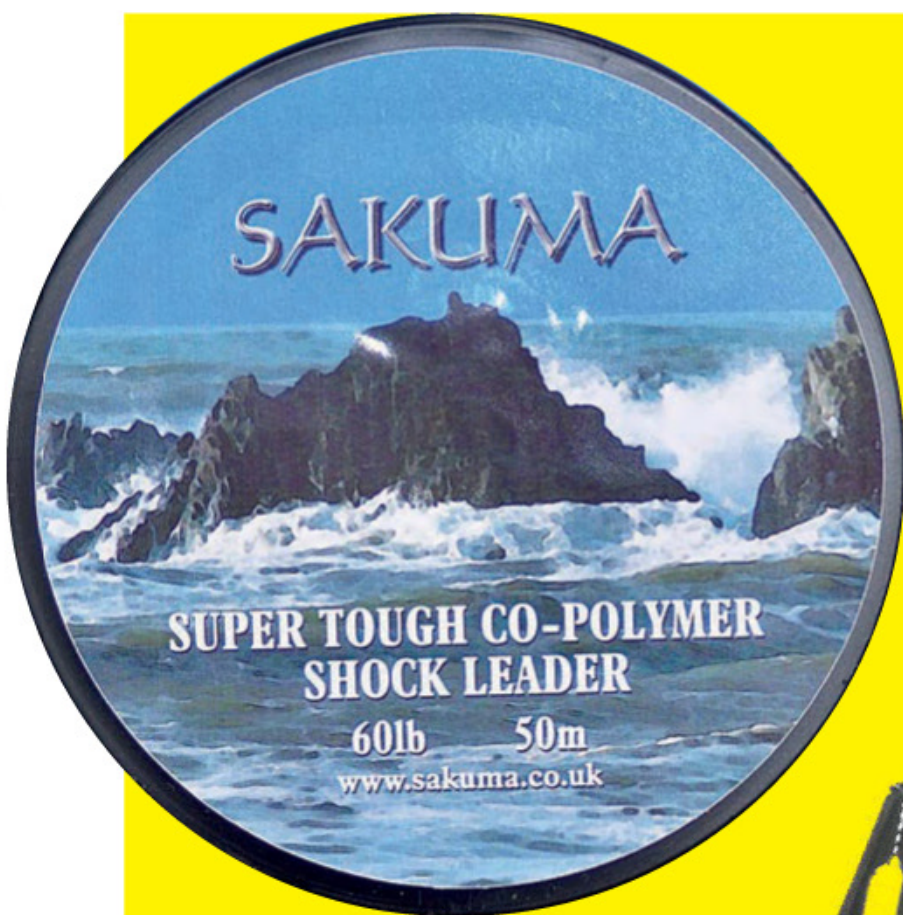
Tackle which our testers or reviewers recommend to our audience.

SeaAngler
BEST
BUY

Tackle we believe is the best when tested or reviewed against direct competitor products.

SeaAngler
★★★★★
5 STAR

Some products reviewed will be awarded a star rating ranging from 0-5.



SAKUMA SUPER TOUGH CO-POLYMER SHOCK LEADER

Top quality Japanese hook manufacturers Sakuma have recently launched a new shock leader. Described as being an 'extra strong abrasive resistant co-polymer', the line has an impressively high knot strength and is suitable for use over all types of terrain. Consequently it is ideal for use as both rig bodies and hook lengths. Sakuma Super Tough Co-Polymer Shock Leader is available in either clear or Hi-Viz orange and in either 60lb or 80lb breaking strain, which have a diameter of 0.80mm and 0.90mm respectively.

RRP:

- 50m £4.99
- 180m (60lb) £10.98
- 140m (80lb) £10.98

HTO LURE FISHING MULTI TOOL

A compact tool that does many jobs including cutting wire and mono with its dedicated cutters. A split ring opener makes attaching new hooks to lures effortless and the narrow, precise, pliers are perfect for hook removal. A non-slip handle makes it ideal for use with wet hands.

- SSP: £5.99



SHAKESPEARE SALT XT BOAT RODS

Due to the high-grade carbon that is used, the Shakespeare SALT XT Boat rods all have a very slim diameter blank, but there is more than enough power in those rods. The sensitive tip section builds up to a stronger backbone, to make sure there is enough power to give a good hookset at great depths and fight a big fish. The long front handle of high-density EVA is easy to clean and can be held with both hands when fighting a big fish. All rods are equipped with a rubber bulb and X-wrap shrink rear handle to maximise comfort. The special K-type guides making sure that the line cannot get entangled around the guides anymore, preventing knots and breakages.

Features:

- 12lb-20lb, 20lb-30lb and 30lb-50lb
- Super slim diameter carbon blanks
- SW Proof K-type guides
- Easy to clean high density EVA grip
- X-shrink rear handle
- Rubber bulb



BOAT STORE

The latest gear and technology for boat-owning anglers

GARMIN LIVESCOPE XR

Garmin has unveiled the latest addition to its award-winning live-scanning sonar line-up. The new LiveScope XR has an extended range for deeper and open waters. With excellent image sharpness at both close and long ranges simultaneously, LiveScope XR delivers real-time images of fish and structure up to 500ft in front of or below the boat—over 200 per cent more range than the leading competitor system.

EXTENDED RANGE

With an optimised design for deeper water, the LiveScope XR transducer has extended elements so anglers can see both long and close-range views in real time. Anglers can see further around and below the boat – up to 500ft in freshwater and 350ft in saltwater – and the 'Reverse Range' feature allows them to utilise more of the screen to display fish and structure. To see detail closer to the boat, the 'Compress Range' feature displays a live look in sharp detail up close, while still allowing the angler to keep an eye on targets further away at the same time.

With seven colour palettes to choose from, anglers can see fish and structure in vivid contrast

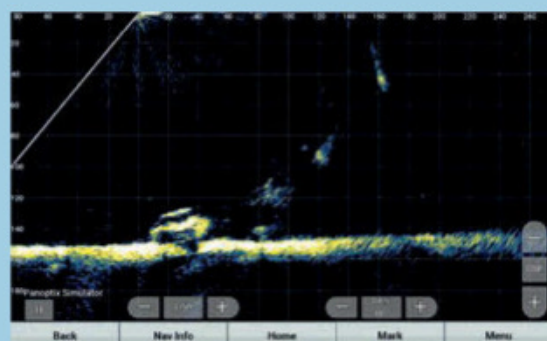
and clarity. Like all LiveScope transducers, LiveScope XR is equipped with additional sensors that allow it to adjust the sonar beams to compensate for boat motion, so even in rough conditions, anglers will still see a steady sonar image, even at an extended range.

THREE MODES IN ONE SYSTEM

The LiveScope XR System delivers three unique vantage points with one mount that can be easily adjusted to fit an angler's fishing techniques and preferences, no tools required. Simply turn the transducer forward for a live look at what's out in front of the boat, point it down to see directly beneath the boat or turn it sideways with the included Perspective Mode Mount to enable the 'top down' perspective mode that's perfect for scouting open water or shorelines. Select the LiveScope mode that best fits that fishing spot, and the view will automatically change on a compatible Garmin chartplotter2 screen.

UPGRADE TO THE LIVESCOPE XR ADVANTAGE

The LiveScope XR System includes a compact GLS™ 10 black box with a LiveScope XR LVS62 transducer, along with a trolling motor barrel and shaft

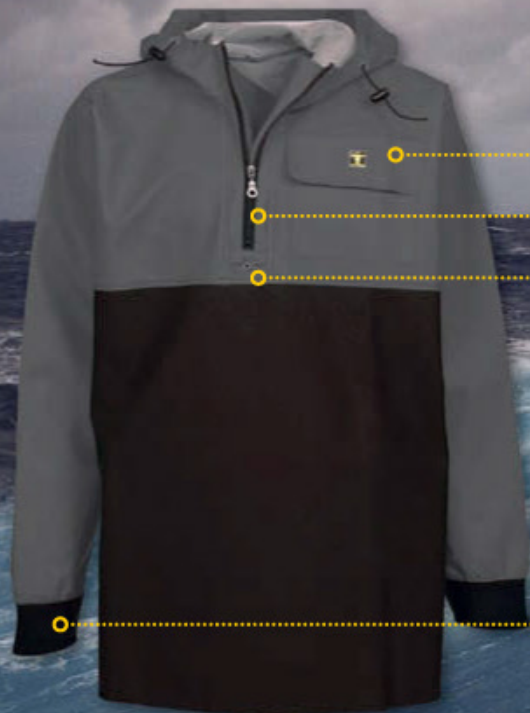


mounting kit, perspective mount bracket and a simple plug-and-play Garmin Marine Network connector for easy installation and integration with a compatible chartplotter. With a free software update, the LVS62 transducer (sold separately) can be added to an existing LiveScope System black box for customers who want to upgrade.

- LiveScope XR System RRP £2158.33
- LiveScope XR LVS62 RRP £1616.66
- LiveScope XR is compatible with a wide range of Garmin GPSMAP® and ECHOMAP™ chartplotters and combo units
- For more information visit www.garmin.com/en-GB



Stay Dry. Fish Longer.



Waterproof
Chest Pocket

Zip Fastening

Water Drain

Neoprene Cuffs

CHINOOK SPORT

100% Waterproof



• TOP EFFICIENT



• TOP SURF CONFORT



• TOP FISHING

WWW.GUYCOTTEN.COM - guycotten@btconnect.com



GUY COTTEN



GEOFF ANDERSON

STOP TALKING WEATHER.

Geoff Anderson has been created for anglers
by anglers. Durable, waterproof and breathable
clothing of the highest quality.

For stockists visit www.geoffanderson.com

Words and images: Mike Thrussell

THE KIT YOU NEED FOR...

ROCK POLLACK

The autumn period from September to early November is the best time for targeting pollack off the open sea rock ledges. The fish are inshore in numbers, at their peak weight and fitness, and eating heavily to gain as much weight as possible prior to the winter period and then spawning.

RODS

A rod length between 9 and 10ft (3m) is perfect as the extra length gives a little more leverage when playing fish, plus the ability to play fish out close to the rock ledge you're standing on. Look for a weight range rating of 20 to 60g or 80g. The rod needs to have a fast action with power throughout its length as pollack will crash dive for the bottom and this needs to be controlled by power in the mid-section and especially the butt. The up to 60/80g rating also gives the power to cast leads and lures up to 30zs to maximum range, which can be crucial to better catches.

■ PENN SQUADRON 11 SW SPIN 3m
20/80g RRP £83.99



REELS

Reel choice also needs to be powerful with tough gearing and a strong but smooth flowing drag. A 4500 or 5000 is the ideal size with the 10ft rod and balances well. Line capacity needs to be around 250m of 15lb (0.35mm) line. A faster gear ratio around 5.7:1 or faster makes retrieving less effort but maintains a high lure speed if needed and the addition of stainless-steel ball-bearings also makes the reel smoother, more efficient and more pleasing to use when constantly casting. Set the clutch to give line grudgingly, about half the breaking strain of the line is a good starting place.

■ DAIWA BG4500 RRP £119.99
■ PENN FIERCE 111 5000 RRP £118.99



RIGS

The best rig for casting unweighted sandeels is to tie a 3-way swivel by the top end eye to the leader. To the middle eye attach a medium oval split ring and then the lead. To the lower swivel eye tie on at least 36ins of 18lb fluorocarbon then add the lure. This rig casts with the lead weight leading during the flight of the cast and minimises the chance of tangles. It fishes with the lure streaming out behind the lead weight giving a natural swimming action.



FLOAT FISHING

Float fishing with the same rod and reel is also effective. Slide a bead onto the leader, then a largish cigar float, a round-ball-weight to cock the float, and another bead. Tie on a size 4 swivel. To the base of this swivel add 18ins of 15lb fluorocarbon and a size 1 to 1/0 Aberdeen hook. Above the top bead, using a short 6in length of 20lb mono, or better still Powergum, tie on to the main line a 5-turn Grinner knot to form a sliding stop-knot. The sliding knot on the mainline can be used to change the depth the bait will sit at below the float.

- TRONIXPRO CIGAR FLOATS WHITE/YELLOW 12g to 35g RRP £1.99 56G £2.20

SPINNERS AND LURES

Spinners between 1 and 3oz with a mainly chrome coloured finish take a lot of pollack. Use both slim versions to imitate sandeels and Toby spoon types to copy baitfish such as sprat. Keep the hooks sharp with a honing stone or file. Spinners can be attached direct to the leader with a snap link swivel.

Artificial sandeels are real killers too but carry sizes 115mm to 175mm. Good colours are white, red, black and white/green. If the water is clear and bites slow, use brighter orange and yellow lures.

- REDGILL RASCALS 3 PER PACK 115MM RRP £5.40
- BERKLEY POWERBAIT SANDEELS 15CM 30G 3 PER PACK RRP £6.99



BAITS

Frozen sandeel is a good float fished bait with the hook point fed in through the mouth and out halfway down the length of the body. After casting, gently pull the line in a foot or two every 30 seconds. This will lift the sandeel and give it some natural life.

Another god bait for float work is a simple mackerel strip cut from the white belly of the fish. Hook this once in the thick end and cut the other end narrower so it gives the impression of a fish. Again, twitching the float will add life to the bait. Live ragworm hooked once through the head is also deadly as it swims naturally in the water. Let the float go right under before striking.

LEAD WEIGHTS

Leads in the 1.5 to 2oz group tend to work the best in most conditions. Always go for bomb shapes. These not only cast well but drop through the water column cleanly and offer minimal resistance on the retrieve. Don't use bright new leads. Use old ones with a dull grey finish or pickle them in vinegar to kill the colour. The lure needs to be the main attraction.



MAINLINE & LEADER

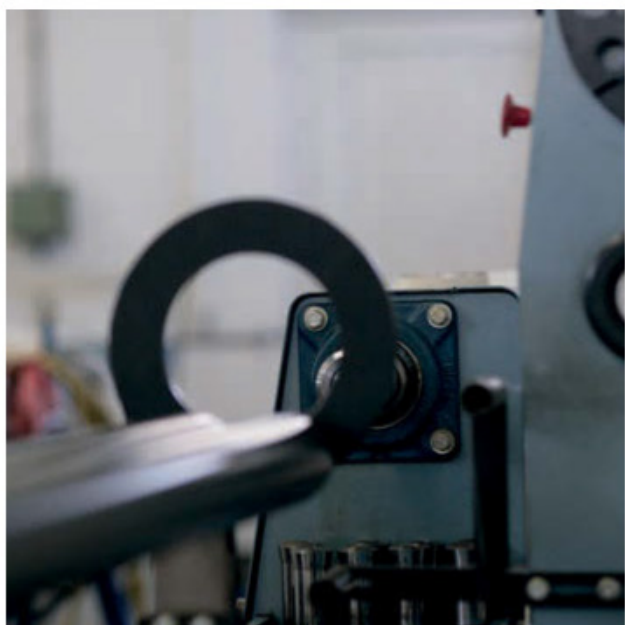
Choose 20lb braid for all situations. It offers minimal diameter so casts easily to long range, has no elasticity so sets the hook well and applies maximum pressure to a pollack when it dives, catches less tide if you're fishing a tide run and works a lure better than mono can. It's wise to add a short 20lb Fluorocarbon leader the length of the rod plus a few turns onto the reel with 3ft of line hanging below the rod tip. This takes the strain of casting, plus is less easy for a fish to see as it attacks the lure. Fluorocarbon is also better at surviving contact with rocks and barnacles than mono is and will catch you more fish.

- TRONIX X8 POWER BRAID 20LB RRP £29.99





◀ John with Terry Carroll at the Ziplex factory in Kent in 2006



THE END OF AN ERA

With the news that legendary sea angling rod manufacturer Zziplex is closing its factory doors for the last time, John Holden looks back at his friendship with the man who brought this iconic brand to the world – Terry Carroll



Terry in September 2014
at a UKSF event

Stanmer Park, Brighton a long, long time ago. Terry Carroll threw a bunch of test rods on the grass. “Here’s what they sent us,” he said. “I mean, just look. They’re supposed to be a leading rod company, but this is what they come up with. Useless. They’re nice people, but they just don’t get it.” Although he didn’t say it at the time, it was crystal clear that Terry knew that the only answer was to make his own rods. And after a series of ups and downs, strained alliances and false starts that’s exactly what he did when, in around 1980, he and his wife Barbara created Zziplex rod blanks.

These days we’ve grown almost immune to the hype dished out by the sea fishing world. Hardly anything prompts us to sit up and take a closer look. A new rod is usually just another carbon pole added to a forest of mediocrity. Yet Zziplex arrived on the scene with the impact of a nuclear missile. Caster and keen fisherman alike, you simply had to have one. A Zziplex rod (blank, actually; finished rods came much later) was the number one, automatic, bullet-proof choice.

What triggered such instant adulation? In 1969 when Terry and I won the British Casting Championship 6oz multiplier event as professional and amateur respectively, setting new records along the way, it was very, very big news. While we didn’t quite soar to Emma Raducanu level, we featured on TV and national press in addition to enormous coverage in the angling world. We travelled the land demonstrating to crowds of anglers often well over a thousand strong. Given Terry’s track record, no wonder the newly announced Zziplex rods got off to a flying start, dominating beaches and tournament courts literally overnight.

Fast forward to 2022, seven years since Terry’s untimely passing. Zziplex is to close. Rumours are flying. Will the name be snapped up by one of the tackle trade giants? Will somebody step in and carry on? I have no idea. The closest I have to a reality check is that Barbara is retiring and manufacturing at the New Romney factory will cease.

I leave it to the beardy nerds to document the history of Zziplex, to list in minute detail the names, dates, specifications and performance of every rod the company ever produced in 40-odd years. Historical records are important, of course, but I’m ignoring them to focus on what made Zziplex so different, so successful, so influential. ►

THE MAGIC TOUCH

The story of Zziplex and all the achievements along the way is really the story of Terry and Barbara Carroll. Terry was a unique combination of designer and engineer who could actually push his own creations to the limit at the highest competitive levels. From the very first, Zziplex was a driving force in the casting world, promoting the sport to new levels worldwide. Terry also had huge charisma. People flocked to see him. They wanted his rods, and I suspect that more than a few hoped that some of the Carroll magic would rub off.

As soon as the show ended, he was back in the workshop making blanks, playing around with new materials and theories, all the while with one clear aim: to make wonderful rods that everyone could use and enjoy whether they were hell bent on smashing distance records or happy to catch a few whiting. He encouraged and appreciated input from other fishermen and casters, but the bottom line is that in all serious decisions he was relentlessly his own man.

This virtuoso performance in glass and carbon could not have taken place without Barbara's help. She was rock-solid in her backing, keeping the business on course. They made a magnificent team. Others may have helped, but the lion's share of the work and all the responsibility fell on the two of them. And all the time Zziplex products became more prestigious and more desirable, thus increasing their workload and pressures. In match fishing and tournaments as well as in general beach sport, Zziplex ruled supreme for many years despite fierce challenges from Conoflex, Century and Daiwa.

GOLDEN YEARS

The truly golden years ran through the 1980s into the 1990s. Record after record fell. One exotic rod after another arrived, most with equally exotic labels: Quattrra, Bullet, NG, Pendleteque, Primo. A major high point was Neil Mackellow's setting a crop of national and world records that threatened the 300yd mark. What's not so well known is that other Zziplex casters had breached that barrier unofficially or in minor events. But with the power and the glory came the first tiny hints of change. Terry's radar picked up on that, and he was not impressed.

I was in his office when a guy came in for a new rod. "I saw Neil at the Sportcast event on Sunday, and I want a rod like his," he said (if memory serves, that would probably have been a Quattrra Sport with an uprated tournament butt). Terry said, "You won't be able to cast it. You won't even be able to bend it. Neil's over 6ft 6in and 20 stone, and you're, what, five-eight? You'll do much better with something like this."

He handed over a rod. The guy waved it and pressed the tip against the ceiling. "What's this, a bass rod or something?" Clearly insulted he handed the rod back. He'd rejected the legendary Zziplex 2500, one of the most beautiful rods ever to grace the beach. Easy to use, versatile, a wonderful fishing tool yet capable of 250yd on the field. After he'd gone, Terry sighed and said, "He'll buy a Quattrra from somewhere, and he'll hate it. Complete waste of money. But what can you do?"

This highlights the core of Terry's philosophy. Throughout his entire career, even back in our Stanmer Park days, he had insisted that a rod should be good for both fishing and casting. Use it on the

beach, take it to a tournament. That is why Zziplex have always offered a range of rods for all casting styles, all fishing needs and all casters from beginners to champions.

He considered the modern shift towards ultra-stiff, ultra-fast and excessively long rods to be a huge mistake despite their growing dominance of the tournament world. He was forced to make some rods of that ilk, but it was a commercial decision that clashed with all he stood for. He didn't like them, he thought they were bad for the sport, and I suspect he hoped the trend would implode and persuade people to look at the alternatives. His disappointment and frustration poured out in the many long conversations we had. Terry goes into some of this in the last interview I recorded with him. You can hear it at www.johnholden.co.uk.

Yet it's vital to stand back and take a broader view. Things do have a habit of going around in circles, and I'm confident that the future will see some big changes. It also begs the question, what would Zziplex's future have been even with Terry still at the helm? For those of us with a bit of mileage on the clock, it

can be hard to appreciate that youngsters don't think the same as we do. They have their own dreams and motivations. The world has moved on since Terry and I started casting and Zziplex arrived. But Terry's basic argument remains valid: the mass of today's rods are not very nice to fish with, hard to master and, top end models at least, extraordinarily expensive due to the large amounts of exotic materials used.

Perhaps change and uncertainty are factors in Barbara's decision to close down. Manufacturing rods is a relatively straightforward exercise which has continued since Terry died. Given suitable materials, many of the existing Carroll designs could have soldiered on. This cannot offset the painful reality that the ethos, innovation and charisma of Zziplex died with Terry. What he would like most right now? I'm confident his dearest wish would be a long and happy retirement for Barbara. And that the Zziplex label does not end up on some bastardised range of junk knocked out by an international tackle conglomerate. Personally, I'd like to see a clean ending so that in years to come beach anglers still revere the legend that is Zziplex. ■

“Zziplex arrived on the scene with the impact of a nuclear missile. Caster and keen fisherman alike, you simply had to have one”





We are pleased to be the sole distributor for the Hamble Dory as featured in this magazine.
Please do get in touch with us today to arrange a demo on this special UK designed and built boat.
At Parker Adams Boat Sales we also sell a huge range of used boats to suit all budgets.

Hamble Dory Distributor | Used Boat Brokerage | Smartfish UK Dealer

Parker Adams Boat Sales | Hamble Point Marina, Hamble, SO32 1BD | 07980 859859

WWW.PARKER-ADAMS.CO.UK

PARKER ADAMS
BOAT SALES

SwellProUK ONLY £999

Waterproof Drones

***COUPON CODE*
SEAANGLERFD1**

**100% WATERPROOF & SEAWATER READY
FISHING DRONE**

www.swellprouk.com
01305 300413



2KG BAIT CAPACITY



1.6KM CASTING RANGE



30 MINUTE FLIGHT TIME



Celebrating **50 YEARS**

of West Country Craft

**Plymouth
Pilots**

PRESTIGIOUS • PRACTICAL • PERSONAL

HOME OF THE 16', 18' & 24' PLYMOUTH PILOT

**Each boat is as
individual as YOU**

REQUEST YOUR FREE BROCHURE

enquiries@plymouthpilots.co.uk

www.plymouthpilots.co.uk

01752 482588



We'd love to connect!



H2O HAMBLE DORY

It's been a long time but Dave Lewis is back out on the water testing the latest fishing boats for Sea Angler, and is impressed on all counts with this super stable little South Coast beauty

For the better part of 30 years reviewing boats has played a big part of my monthly routine working for Sea Angler, and the various other publications to whom I have contributed. Then along came Covid and together with the obvious restrictions in travel, imports came to an abrupt halt and very few companies had the confidence to invest in the development and production of new boats. Then, finally, I received an email asking whether or not I'd be interested in reviewing a new boat? I was, and I did, and here are my thoughts...

The H20 Hamble Dory can best be described as being a modern take of a timeless classic. The original 'dories' were the small wooden clinker built boats commercial fisherman and whalers used in conjunction with a larger mothership. More recently following the wider application of fibreglass moulding in the 1960s, these small, functional and inherently stable shallow drafted craft soon started to appear elsewhere, notably amongst anglers.

Hand built in Hampshire the H20 Hamble Dory was introduced to the UK boating market this year by Parker Adams Boat Sales who, having trialled the very first Hamble Dory, immediately realised its potential, and it was they who arranged my sea trial from their base at Hamble Point Marina.



The build quality and finish is excellent

SPECS

The H20 Hamble Dory has an overall length of 4m, with a 1.7m beam and a fully laden weight of 692kg. Consequently she is easy to tow and launch. Her Category C CE rating allows up to four people, increasing to five under Category D, but my opinion is that here we have the perfect boat for one, or at most two anglers, fishing inshore sheltered water. With the hull drawing just 0.45m, she is ideal for shallow water use.

Sitting at her berth in the marina, my first impressions were that she certainly is a pretty little boat.

When I stepped aboard it didn't take long to confirm that the build quality, attention to detail and overall finish was nothing less than excellent. I like the basic, open, clutter free layout, and I'd suggest that from an angling perspective she would be an ideal boat to fish estuaries, larger harbours and coastal waters. She certainly is the perfect boat for the lure fisherman targeting species such as bass in skinny water. If you are looking for a boat to fly fish from I strongly suggest you cast an eye over the H20 Hamble Dory; she would be perfect.

BUOYANCY

Many previous dory designs have been built with a foam filled hull, which of course provides a massive amount of inherent buoyancy. However foam filled hulls do have their downside, specifically water ingress. Regardless of build quality with time it is inevitable that water will get into the hull, from where it will quickly be absorbed by the foam. Aside from the gradual degradation of the very fabric and structure of the boat, a water logged hull becomes very heavy which quickly affects performance. Repairs are both costly and time consuming.





The 30hp Mercury generated a speed of 24kt



Despite its size there's plenty of stowage space

The H20 Hamble Dory has no foam within its hull, rather buoyancy is provided by the construction of airtight chambers. This design means if you swamp the boat it will not lose buoyancy, with the self draining cockpit very quickly removing any water shipped. The airtight chambers also offer peace of mind as if one of the hulls was to be damaged, water will only fill that chamber.

CUSTOMISE YOUR OWN

The manufacturers offer multiple options to customise your H20 Hamble Dory to your exact specifications. These range from upholstery colours, to a choice of colours of flooring and the configuration of cockpit seating. The layout of the boat I trialled was in my opinion pretty much perfect for the various angling scenarios for which I envisage this boat being used. The centre console is located amidships, and there is sufficient space to pass easily to either side. A full beam transom seat opens to provide access to a compartment containing a battery and fire extinguisher, with remaining stowage space for additional kit. Further stowage space is found within the helmsman seat and forward of the console. An attractive synthetic teak deck enhances the boat's traditional feel.

A flat, raised foredeck provides an excellent casting platform. From here an angler can benefit from and fully appreciate the huge amount of lateral stability inherent in the dory design. The actual steering console is simple in design, yet entirely functional. It has sufficient space for the practical insulation of the electronics most anglers would likely want to install. A tinted screen provides an aesthetic and practical finishing touch. The boat was fitted with all necessary deck hardware, including high quality stainless steel rod rests.

STABILITY

In order to take the various images I require to support these reviews I have to move all around the hull to shoot from various angles, just as most anglers would do during a day afloat. Within minutes of leaving the marina pontoon I was able to confirm the stability of the hull; she really is an incredibly stable fishing platform.

HANDLING

Within the confines of The Hamble Estuary we were restricted by a 6 knot speed limit, but once we

were clear of the buoyed channel leading out into The Solent we were able to open the throttle and experience the top end performance of the boat. The H20 Hamble Dory is rated for use with outboard engines up to a maximum of 30hp. The test boat was fitted with a 30hp Mercury which will deliver the recommended maximum speed of 24 knots.

At the application of the throttle the hull rises quickly and cleanly onto the plane, responding crisply to adjustments of the helm and speed. Given suitable conditions you could quickly and safely cover a lot of ground to fish various marks. As you can see from my images we had chosen a beautiful flat, calm and sunny day, but of course The Solent is a very busy waterway with plenty of commercial shipping to provide sizeable wakes to simulate waves and swell, all of which the boat addressed without fault. The topography of the area where we were running was exactly the sort of ground that most anglers would use this boat for.

This was the first production model of the H20 Hamble Dory. I was told that work was still in progress to establish the optimum engine shaft length and propeller configuration. On the day we did experience some cavitation, but it is anticipated this will be prevented by the installation of an engine with an extra long shaft.

CONSIDERATIONS

There's not much I'd change aboard this boat other than the addition of a full length gunwale rail which would serve to further enhance onboard safety both while underway and fishing. I feel this would be particularly appropriate as the internal gunwale is stepped. Likewise, if you are planning on spending a lot of time standing and casting at the bow it would be worth considering fitting a pulpit rail. ■

■ **Basic H20 Hamble Dory: £12,600**
 ■ **A package as tested, including road trailer and a Garmin Striker Plus: £25,768.40**

■ **For more information or to arrange a sea trial contact:**
Parker Adams Boat Sales Ltd
Tel: 07980 859857
Email: enquiries@parker-adams.co.uk
Web: www.parker-adams.co.uk



The Hamble Dory is incredibly stable to fish from

GET READY FOR AUTUMN

6 ISSUES FOR £22.99!



FREE
GIFT WORTH
£34.99!



Great reasons to subscribe:

- Pay only £22.99 for your first 6 months
- **Never miss an issue**
- Free gift worth £34.99
- **Free UK delivery directly to your door**

ONLINE: shop.kelsey.co.uk/SAN613P

CALL: 01959 543747 and quote code SAN613P

HOTLINE OPEN: MONDAY, FRIDAY, 8.30AM, 5.30PM. CALLS ARE CHARGED AT YOUR STANDARD NETWORK RATE

Terms & conditions: UK Direct Debit offer only. You will pay £22.99 for your first 6 issues. Savings are based on the standard cover price of £4.50. Offer ends 30th November 2022. Your subscription will start with the next available issue and you will receive 13 issues in a year. The free gift is only available for UK delivery addresses only and is limited to the first 200 subscribers, if we run out of stock an alternative gift will be offered to the same value. Prices correct at time of print and subject to change. For full terms and conditions visit shop.kelsey.co.uk/terms. Data protection: We take great care in handling your personal details and these will only ever be used as set out in our privacy policy which can be viewed at shop.kelsey.co.uk/privacy-policy.

You may unsubscribe at any time.



DO CIRCLE HOOKS CATCH MORE FISH?

Long-time BASS member Mike Ladle looks at the evidence supporting whether circle-hooks help catch more fish and if they really do help prevent deep hooking



Circle-hooks are an ancient design, but in recent years, when they were found to increase commercial (long-line) catches of sea fish, they have been modified and improved. They are now widely available in sizes suitable for bass angling and I've been using these hooks for much of my predator angling (salt and freshwater) for years now. When I first mentioned this (decades ago – time flies!) in books and articles, I had a good deal of correspondence from interested anglers regarding the pros and cons of their use.

Rod and line anglers, using traditional J hooks, are able to strike bites and hook the culprits. Circle-hooks, in contrast, designed as they are for static long lines where the fish 'hook themselves', require no sharp strike. In fact, a gentle tightening of the line (the fish often do it for you) is by far the most effective way to secure biting fish. So, understandably, much of the discussion centred on whether, for rod fishers, circle-hooks would catch less (or more) fish than J hooks.

Billy Edwards and Sean O'Sullivan, both experienced anglers, wrote to me that they were doubtful whether the benefits of circle-hooks, which are clearly evident on static long lines, would be so great for hand-held, rod fishing.

Initially I had exactly the same doubts. I was certainly well aware that a hook on a long line may not be the same thing as a hook on rod and line. As noted above, when using circle-hooks the fish more or less have to hook themselves. In contrast, if the angler holds the rod, waits for bites and strikes effectively (as I have always tried to do), then the circle-hook may lose its advantage.

However, many of the modern sea-angling approaches (distance casting, match fishing, up-tiding and so on) rely on the fish hooking themselves against the resistance of a grip lead or fixed weight of some sort. This, to my mind, is almost the same as a hook fished on a longline. So, at least for such sit-and-wait tactics, the improved hooking power shown by circle-hooks should be a huge advantage. ►

Circle hooks are very effective for live-baiting with good hook-up ratios

DO CIRCLE-HOOKS INJURE FEWER FISH?

There is another thing to consider. Even for the alert, rod-holding angler, and whether or not circle-hooks are better fish catchers, it is certain (and my own bass and pike fishing results have convinced me of this) you will deeply hook a lot fewer fish by using circle-hooks. Now, anything that helps propagate the 'caring, conservation-minded, angler' image these days must be worth trying.

Think about it. Freshwater anglers in the UK wish to return almost all their fish in mint condition (with the possible exception of some trout and salmon). In the case of sea anglers, who may keep some larger and more desirable fish to eat, one of the strongest arguments for angling (as opposed to commercial netting and set lining) is that anglers are able to return unwanted species or undersized specimens to the sea alive and well. Many studies have now shown that deeply hooked fish (whatever the hook type used) are the ones most likely to be injured or to die.

WHAT ARE THE FACTS

Clearly, if the use of circle-hooks does result in less mortality and trauma of returned fish, and still gives better or equal catches for anglers, it would be in all our best interests to use them when it is appropriate. To get to grips with these problems scientist have been working hard to establish the facts. Here are a few examples.

A Spanish sport fishery was examined to study the effect of hook size and type. The main catch was a smallish fish called the 'derbio' (a bit like our scad), which is a common catch in recreational fisheries around the Balearic Islands (western Mediterranean). Very few hooked fish died over-all, but many (85 per cent) of the ones deeply hooked died within two hours. The location in which the hook penetrated was the main cause of death. Perhaps surprisingly, the smallest hooks (sizes 14 and 12) caused more deaths than the larger ones (sizes 10, 8 and 6). Significantly, no deep-hooking or mortality was observed when using circle-hooks.

In 2006, in California, another study was made of the survival of a popular angler's fish, the 'white sea-bass'. The effectiveness of offset-circle-hooks was compared with J-type hooks. The fish caught were 43–57cm in length (so similar sizes to most of our bass) and netted 'bass' were used as a 'control'. Researchers recorded where, in the body, the fish were hooked and how hook location affected survival for 90 days after release.

The results showed that the circle-hooks penetrated the lip region more frequently (73 per cent) than did J-type hooks (41 per cent) and confirmed that hook location directly affected mortality. As with the derbio study, all fish deaths involved hook damage to the gut. The fish that died always did so within a few days after release. It was found better to leave deep hooks in place than trying to remove them. Interestingly, in this study, angler success rates were equally good with both hook types.



Mike with a nice 70cm bass from the shore

In a second Mediterranean study the performance of circle-hooks was tested in a mixed-species, recreational boat fishery. Again, the effects of the circle-hooks on hooking injury, fish size and catch rates were compared with J hooks.

For the two most frequently-caught species, the annular sea bream and the rainbow wrasse, the deep-hooking rate was more than halved by the use of circle-hooks. Once more, the anglers caught just as many fish as when using J hooks. The average size of the fish caught, and the unhooking time were not affected.

Most of this science involved fairly small fish but, these days, circle-hooks are also used for many 'big-game' species, in attempts to reduce mortality of the catch (the fish are generally tagged and released). In one study, off Florida, the performance of two types of circle-hooks and a similar-sized 'J' hook were compared when recreational live-bait fishing for Atlantic sailfish.

A total of 766 sailfish were caught when assessing hook performance. The scientists also considered the effect of drop-back-time – the length of time before tightening into a taking fish.

This is of interest to me because I have to decide when to tighten into my pike, bass and so on when they take the bait. In the sailfish study four drop-back intervals were examined (0–5, 6–10, 11–15 and more than 15 seconds).

Hook performance was assessed in terms of proportions of successful catch, undesirable hook locations, bleeding events and physical hook damage on released fish. As it turned out the traditionally-shaped circle-hook had the greatest conservation benefit for survival after release. In addition, this was the only hook type tested that performed well during every drop-back interval.



This circle hooked bass went to 12.25lb

Conversely, J hooks resulted in almost twice as many badly hooked fish, and fish released in poor condition; this was particularly bad when using long drop-back intervals. Non-traditional circle-hooks had performance results intermediate to the other hook types. So, choice of hook type can significantly change the amount of hook damage to fish.

Another point which has become clear to me over the years, is that some species of fish are more susceptible to lip hooking than others. I have now tried circle-hooks extensively when using live fish baits for pike, bass, perch and chub. I've also used them when free-lined, dead-bait fishing for bass and wobbling dead fish for pike. Of course, as in any form of angling, I miss some bites, but usually the circle-hooks appear to be very efficient.

There are still lots of ifs and buts regarding circle-hooks. Some of these were discussed in 'The Second Wave', written with my pal Steve Pitts. However, there is no doubt that mortality is consistently lower for circle-



Right in the scissors – circle-hooks are a popular way of preventing gut-hooked fish

hooks than for J hooks and it seems to me that I hook just as many or more fish when using circle-hooks. Here are a few examples from the literature.

An Australian study on snapper involved 60,000 baited hooks on set lines. In this case the circle-hooks caught almost 60 per cent more snapper than the J hooks. In addition, tying the hooks with a snell knot gave a further increase in catches. Interestingly, the circle-hooks took no fish under 30cm long while 47 (15 per cent) of the catch on the J hooks were undersized ones.

BIG IS BEST

In another study, with 75 anglers using a wide range of hook patterns, about 2,000 sea bream were landed and released. Virtually all mouth-hooked fish survived but many more J-hooks were swallowed than circle-hooks. Using larger hooks also reduced the frequency of gut hooking, so big circle-hooks were the best.

With regard to species my own correspondents have suggested that circle-hooks are excellent for mouth-hooking lesser-spotted-dogfish but give no advantages to avoid gut hooking when used for thornback rays or coalfish.

In complete contrast to the previous examples, a long line survey was conducted off Greenland, comparing a traditional 12/0 J hook to three versions of a new 14/0 circle-hook. In this case catches on the traditional circle-hooks were 36 per cent greater.

As far as I am concerned, now that quite a few years of circle-hook use have been and gone, my bass and pike fishing results have convinced me that I catch just as many fish and deeply hook a lot less of them by using good sized (4/0 to 8/0) circle-hooks. In addition, having also tried hook sizes 4 to 6 for perch and chub with a good deal of success, I've now caught lots of accidental, lip-hooked pike on these smaller sizes. ■

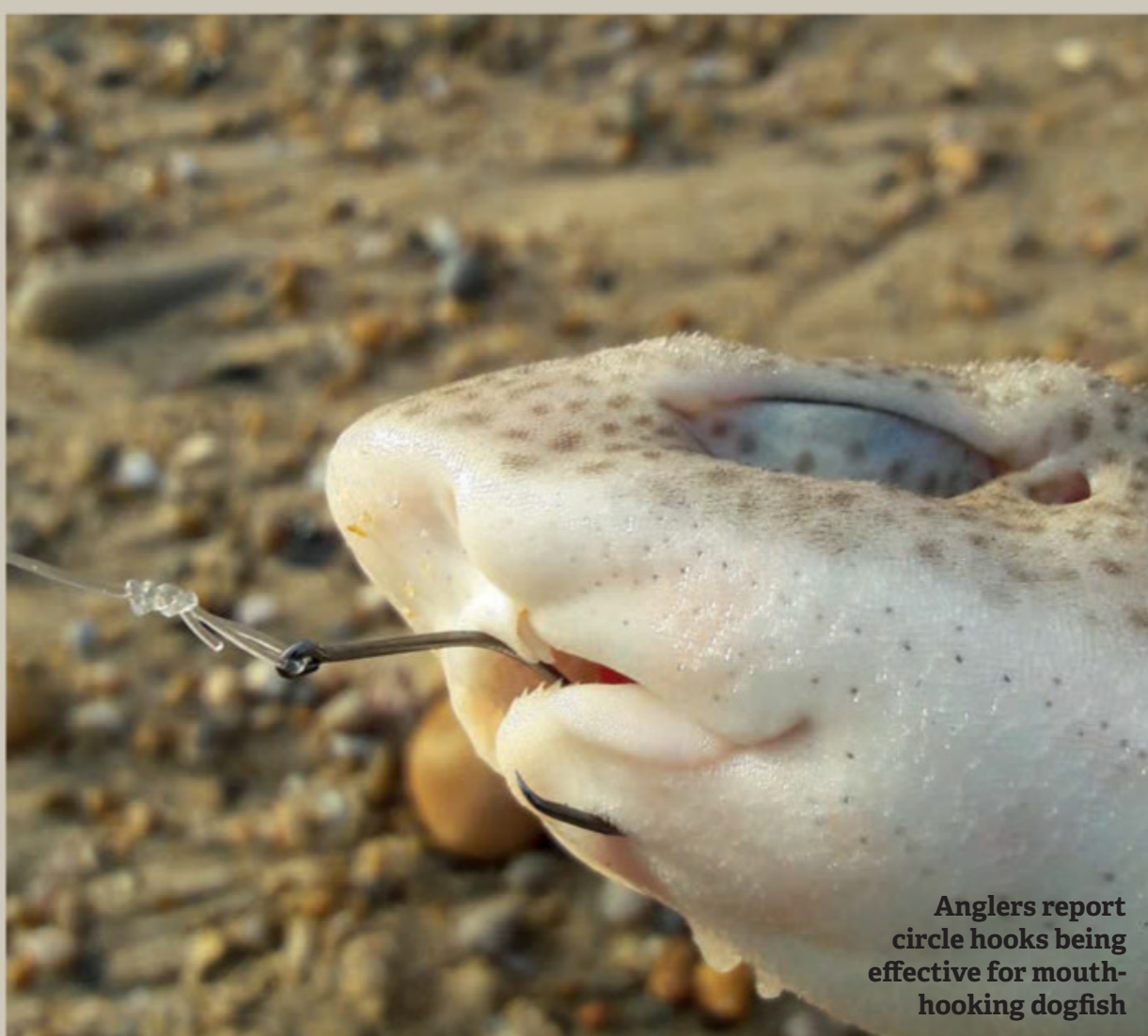


A mackerel head and 'shoulders' mounted on a circle hook



A whole mackerel fillet bait mounted on a circle hook

"Most of this science involved fairly small fish but, these days, circle-hooks are also used for many 'big-game' species, in attempts to reduce mortality of the catch"



Anglers report circle hooks being effective for mouth-hooking dogfish



■ **Keep up to date with BASS through its blog on www.ukbass.com or on Facebook or Twitter.**



SALC HOME NATIONS

Weymouth was the host of the SALC Home Nations shore championship and witnessed two days of international match angling excellence



Team England celebrating their three gold and silver wins



The England men's team won silver

The town welcomed four teams per nation with anglers travelling from all corners of Ireland, England, Scotland, and Wales. Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th July, had the following teams fishing at these locations:

TUESDAY, JULY 5

- Seniors/U21s - Cogden Beach (Chesil Beach)
- Juniors - Ringstead Beach
- Ladies - Preston Beach

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

- Seniors/U21s - Ferry Bridge (Chesil Beach)
- Juniors - Ringstead Beach
- Ladies - Preston Beach

Chesil Beach, where the Seniors and Under 21s competed, fished harder than Ringsted and Preston with D section at Ferry Bridge only seeing two fish landed by the in-form JP Molloy of Ireland helping them to the gold medal position. Dave Lane, the local expert on Chesil, had the

best result with five fish for 175 points off section A, collecting the section 1st as most of the team did over the two days, which left only one point separating gold from silver.

Ringsted, where the under 16s fished, was a different story, fishing so well that extra scorecards were sourced for both days. Day one on E section saw Ben Beal (Wales) and Sam James (England) catch 70 and 71 fish respectively – an amazing effort considering the heat in which they found themselves.

Preston, the ladies' venue, became a wrasse fest, mostly ballan and corkwing. With a rogue blenny for Karena Duffy (Scotland) and an impressive strap cconger for Sally Tucker (England), both fish going towards each angler's section win. England Ladies had several new caps for 2022, and a very impressive final score to clinch gold. An even more impressive performance when you consider Scotland ladies came back very strong on day two winning four of the five sections.

2022 witnessed a new system for developing squads and supporting event specific teams

RESULTS



SALC – Home Nations 2022



NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
David Neil	Scotland	1	0	
Christopher Empson	Scotland	1	0	
Barry McEwan	Scotland	1	0	
Nuno Santos	Scotland	2	4	
Brian Maxwell	Scotland	0	0	
Final Scores		5	4	9

NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
Dave Lane	England	3	4	
George Smith	England	4	3	
Nathan Elliot	England	4	2	
Joe Plumstead	England	3	0	
Saul Page	England	2	4	
Final Scores		16	13	29

NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
Craig Maddock	Wales	3	3	
Dewi Parry	Wales	3	2	
Anthony Thomas	Wales	2	0	
Dave Cave	Wales	3	3	
Chris Isaac	Wales	1	0	
Final Scores		12	8	20

NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
Chris O Sullivan	Ireland	4	2	
David O Sullivan	Ireland	4	1	
JP Molloy	Ireland	4	4	
Stephen O'Donovan	Ireland	2	3	
Darren Ryan	Ireland	2	4	
Final Scores		16	14	30

Mens Team Results



SALC - Home Nations 2022



NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
Lesley Maby	Scotland	2	4	
Gill Coutts	Scotland	1	4	
Karena Duffy	Scotland	1	4	
Buffy McAvoy	Scotland	3	4	
Joanne Barlow	Scotland	3	1	
Final Scores		10	17	27

NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
Gem Stapleton	England	4	3	
Maralyn Wicks	England	4	3	
Sally Tucker	England	4	3	
Lolly Perry	England	4	4	
Heather Lindfield	England	2	3	
Final Scores		18	16	34

NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
June Howell	Wales	2	3	
Marie Bain	Wales	2	2	
Claire Loder	Wales	0	2	
Tina Lustig	Wales	4	2	
Donna Payne	Wales	2	1	
Final Scores		10	10	20

NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
Ava Marshall	Ireland	1	1	
Janet Snoddy	Ireland	1	1	
Liz McMahon	Ireland	3	2	
Rosealeene Murphy	Ireland	3	2	
Kaitlyn De Kleer	Ireland	3	1	
Final Scores		11	7	18

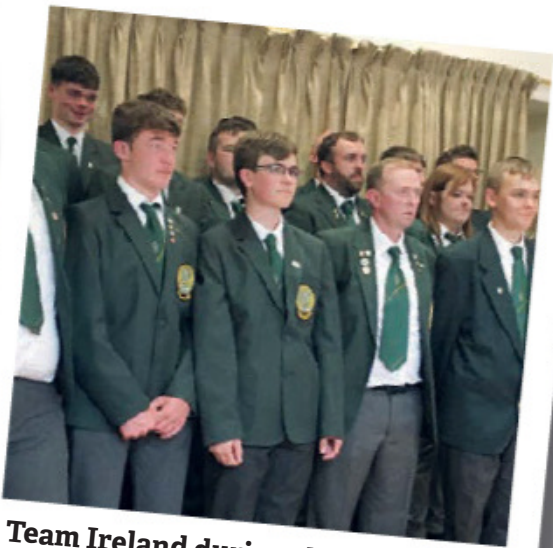
Ladies Team Results

The squad that trialled this program was our ladies shore squad, originally meeting up as a social coaching group in October 2021. Angling Trust committed a small pot of funding and extra resources for several more elite coaching weekends. The first was at Dover and Deal, where Dover Sea Angling Association hosted the class based coaching session delivered by Malcolm Stote, Mark Hurcombe and Richard Yates. The next day the ladies where out on Deal Beach, just within casting distance of the Deal 1919 club house and putting some of Saturday's rigs and coached tips and tricks into practice. There was a very welcomed drop-in session for questions and answers from Saul Page, who ended up staying over time to discuss tweaks to bait presentation and choices of terminal tackle for high summer fishing on the South Coast.

It was followed up by another two-day coaching session at Weymouth in early June, as a primer for the main event in July. This extra time together helped the squad develop and gel and offered an opportunity for the England team selectors to watch the squad in action. This extra time together really did show in the team's recent performance, so much so, that the Angling Trust would really like to offer this squad development system to our other marine teams as soon as they're able to access the funding, sponsorship or corporate donation to see it happen. ■



The Scottish men took fourth place



Team Ireland during the anthems



The Welsh ladies celebrate bronze



The Ireland seniors won the gold





SALC - Home Nations 2022


NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
Andrew McLean	Scotland	2	3	
Calum Culbert	Scotland	1	0	
Darragh Maginnis	Scotland	2	0	
Luke Burns	Scotland	2	0	
Michael McLoughlin	Scotland	2	0	
Final Scores		9	3	12

NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
Daniel Parker	England	4	4	
Owen Strange	England	3	0	
Tom Ryder	England	4	3	
Riley Panter	England	1	4	
Riley Price	England	3	4	
Final Scores		15	15	30

NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
Deian Parry	Wales	1	2	
Tom Fisher	Wales	1	0	
Tyler Brimfield	Wales	3	0	
Ryan Hullah	Wales	4	3	
Sam Collins	Wales	2	2	
Final Scores		11	7	18

NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
Cian Corcoran	Ireland	1	3	
Bradley Kirwan	Ireland	4	0	
Finnian McCarthy	Ireland	4	4	
Noah Tahrn	Ireland	3	0	
Eoin Foley	Ireland	3	4	
Final Scores		15	11	26

Youths Team Results



SALC - Home Nations 2022


NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
Scott Henderson	Scotland	1	0	
Hollie Stoker	Scotland	3	1	
Jay Stoker	Scotland	1	1	
Callum Brown	Scotland	0	4	
Callum Strang	Scotland	0	1	
Final Scores		5	7	12

NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
Archie Sweetland	England	2	2	
Braydon Aldous	England	0	4	
Curtis Driver	England	4	4	
Jack Reynolds	England	4	3	
Sam James	England	3	4	
Final Scores		13	17	30

NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
Archie Williams	Wales	2	2	
Finnan Williams	Wales	3	2	
Ben Beal	Wales	4	3	
James Brimfield	Wales	0	3	
Alphie House Goodwin	Wales	0	1	
Final Scores		9	11	20

NAME	COUNTRY	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	
Shane O'Neil	Ireland	4	2	
Nathan De Kleer	Ireland	3	2	
Liam Davis	Ireland	4	3	
Billy Gilvary	Ireland	2	4	
Cameron Gilbert	Ireland	3	3	
Final Scores		16	14	30

Juniors Team Results

SALC2022

GET 3 ISSUES JUST £5



Collectively with the best writers, analytical features and the ability to deliver the inside-track on domestic and world football, **World Soccer** magazine is your go-to for everything relating to the greatest sport of them all. **World Soccer's** insightful reading focuses on the triumphs, scandals and authoritative insights into the players.

GREAT REASONS TO SUBSCRIBE

- ▶ SAVE 72% ON YOUR FIRST 3 ISSUES
- ▶ CONTINUE TO SAVE 30% AFTER YOUR TRIAL
- ▶ NEVER MISS AN ISSUE
- ▶ FREE DELIVERY TO YOUR DOOR

Visit shop.kelsey.co.uk/WSCHA22

OR CALL 01959 543747 AND QUOTE CODE 'WSCHA22'

HOTLINE OPEN: MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8.30AM-5.30PM. CALLS ARE CHARGED AT YOUR STANDARD NETWORK RATE

UK Direct Debit offer only. You will pay £5.00 for your first 3 issues. Your subscription will continue at a rate of £24.99 every 6 months. Savings are based on the standard cover price of £5.99. Offer ends 31 December 2022. Your subscription will start with the next available issue and you will receive 13 issues in a year. Prices correct at time of print and subject to change. For full terms and conditions visit shop.kelsey.co.uk/terms. Data protection: We take great care in handling your personal details and these will only ever be used as set out in our privacy policy which can be viewed at shop.kelsey.co.uk/privacy-policy. You may unsubscribe at any time.

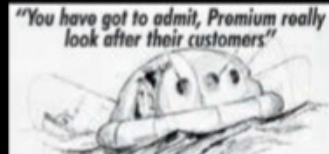
SeaAngler CLASSIFIEDS

Ashbys Leisure Superstore



Open 7 days
Lots of Fishing Gear
Leading Tackle Brands
Fresh and Frozen Baits
Call 01548 531625
East Charleton, Kingsbridge,
Devon, TQ7 2AP

LIFERAFT HIRE - LIFERAFT & DINGHY SERVICING



Email us for information or call
01621 784858
info@liferrafts.com www.liferrafts.com
Liferaft House, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex. CMO 8TE

HIGH FLYER 2 SEA FISHING TRIPS GT YARMOUTH



All fresh and frozen bait available

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Can adjust hours to open early and close late upon request

07725750956/01407 760303

winniesworms69@gmail.com

CAN ORGANISE PARTIES WITH SKIPPERS

SeaAngler

ADVERTISING DOESN'T COST, IT PAYS!

CALL DAVID ON 01732 445326

SeaAngler

HAS AN ABC CERTIFIED CIRCULATION OF

15,524



SEA LEAGUE

The latest results from Britain's biggest event for shore match anglers

JULY

24: SAMF GB SUMMER LEAGUE Hessle, 20 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Paul Denholm Grimsby, 28 fish, 568cm (2); 2nd Ian Nelson, Grimsby, 20 fish, 466cm (1); 3rd Tony Burman, 18 fish, 388 cm. Biggest fish was a 31cm flounder landed by Wayne Leason. Overall league winner was Tony Burman with 3 points, 2nd Paul Denholm (6 points) and joint 3rd was Karl Wiepcke and Brian McKensie with 8 points.

23-24: NORTH EAST RIVER TYNE 2-DAY River Tyne, 42 anglers

Competitors from Scotland, Cumbria and Yorkshire, travelled Tyne River. This year the match stretch was moved up river of Newcastle city centre in the hope of increasing the numbers of fish landed. Where as codling would have been the target species in the lower part of the Tyne, this changed to flounder, eels further up river and so it proved, although a single codling did manage to make its way into one angler's catch, just proving how far up river they can get.

■ **Result:** Overall winner was Gav Owen with a 2nd in zone on day one and a 1st in zone day two, giving a total of 3 points. The minor placing was tight and was decided on fish points. Zone winners on day one were: Zone A Simon Hogan 19 fish 523cm, Zone B George Smith 16 fish 416cm, Zone C Jamie Lee 14 fish 382cm. Day two; Zone A Kenny McCoy 11 fish 287cm, Zone B Jordan Hunter 10 fish 242cm, Zone C Gav Owen 13 fish 353cm. Overall: 1st Gav Owen Consett 3pts (8), 2nd Simon Hogan Maryport 5pts 749cm (7), 3rd Kenny McCoy Sunderland 5pts 596cm (6), 4th George Smith Grimsby 6pts 613cm (5), 5th Lee Smith Hull 6pts 527cm (4), 6th Steve Potts Gosforth 7pts 521cm (3), 7th Kevin Lewis Dundee 7pt 486cm (2), 8th Jordan Hunter Sunderland 7pts 442cm (1), 9th Dave Dobbie Scotland 8pt (1), 10th Paul McIntyre Jarrow 10pts (1). Longest fish of the competition was 38cm flounder landed by Gav Owen and Lee Smith.



23: IPSWICH SEA ANGLERS SUMMER OPEN

River Alde, 15 anglers

Not the biggest of turnouts for the latest summer open river match on the rivers Alde and Ore but the fishing made up for it, showing there's plenty of quality fish in our rivers. Care was taken to peg around the static moorings, allowing anglers the best chance of fishing into the deep channel. From the off anglers were into fish: bass, hounds and eels. It wasn't long before the first ray was landed, closely followed by sole, a rare codling and perhaps even rarer wrasse. As darkness started to creep in, so did the soles, with some crackers being carded along the stretch.

■ **Result:** 1st Mark Gooch Lowestoft 18 fish 639 points (1), 2nd Jimmy Knights Ipswich 4 fish 327 points, 3rd Paul Harrison Aldeburgh 7 fish 269 points. Top junior was Brayden Aldous 6 fish 177 points, biggest fish was a ray of 51cm landed by Jimmy Knights, biggest flatfish a sole of 327cm landed by Matt LF. Fish carded: 25 bass, 7 hounds, 34 eels, 16 soles, 5 rays, 1 wrasse, 1 codling and 1 flounder between 15 anglers.

23: NORTH WALES TEAMS OF FIVE AND OPEN

Talacre, 50 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Shane Russell Old Colwyn (5), 2nd Dewi Parry Gwalchmai (Not registered), 3rd Gary Wood Holyhead (3). Zone winners Dave Shorthouse Kettering (2), Dewi Williams Pwllheli (2).

17: TRALEE BAY SAC Cashen, 20 anglers

Bass showed from the off falling to peeler crab with many in the 40cm bracket. Barry Connolly landed bass within 90 seconds, possibly a record time. The expected run of flounders never materialised in numbers, however the odd specimen was caught, the biggest 37cm landed by Troy Francis.

■ **Result:** 1st Ned Fitzpatrick Kerry 8 fish 309pts (2), 2nd Fiona Ryan 6 fish 270pts (Not registered), 3rd Barry Connolly 6 fish 246pts, biggest fish was a 49cm bass landed by Ned Fitzpatrick.

17: NEWPORT & DISTRICT OPEN

St Brides, 105 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Steve Smyth Cardiff conger eel 2.64kgs (10), 2nd Matt Newman Chepstow conger eel 2.2kgs (9), 3rd Steve Chadwick Cardiff conger eel 2.06kgs (8), 4th Ivor Smith Rogerstone Gwent 2 bass 1.67kgs (7), 5th Andrew Hutchings Cardiff bass 1.34kgs (6).

17: SCOTTISH FEDERATION OF SEA ANGLERS, ROUND 5

East Fife, 44 anglers

With some travelling as far as Yorkshire to fish, sadly fishing was patchy despite near perfect calm conditions all along the boundary.

■ **Result:** 1st Andy Pasfield, Monifieth, 8 cod 21lb 3oz (4); 2nd John Taylor, St Andrews, 5 fish 10lb 9oz, (not registered); 3rd Alan Combe, Kirkcaldy, 4 fish 9lb 13oz, (2). Heaviest cod was a lovely fish of 7lb 13oz landed by Andy Pasfield.

17: SAMF GB SUMMER LEAGUE Barton on Humber, 31 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Simon Drayton, Gainsborough, 11 fish 257cm; 2nd Paul Denholm, Grimsby, 9 fish 208cm; 3rd Brian McKensie, Doncaster, 5 fish 126cm (2).

16: SAMALITE CHESIL LEAGUE ROUND 7 OF 12

Abbotsbury, 26 anglers

Conditions were almost tropical with a calm sea, sunshine and a gentle breeze. Chesil has been very challenging this year and this match was no exception. The higher numbers (B zone) generally fish the best but on this occasion, it was the lower numbers (A zone) producing most fish. The sea bed has changed with very few patches of soft mud and clay, grip leads not sticking in at all for most. In previous years on a big tide, you would have to lean on your rod keeping the pressure on to pop the lead out. Species caught; plaice, grey and tub gurnard, conger, smoothhound, pout, black bream, scad and dab.

■ **Result:** 1st Ian Dancey, Waterlooville, 2 conger, 1 plaice, 1 tub gurnard, 1 dog, 2 hounds, 11lb 3oz (2); 2nd Harry Coxhead, Portland, 2 gurnards, 2 dogs, 2 hounds, 8lb 11oz (1).

10: SMOOTHOUND OPEN

Chapel St Leonards, 63 anglers

Beautiful weather greeted the anglers for the annual Lincolnshire smoothhound match. With fresh crab proving a challenge at this time of year it was an excellent turnout, with anglers travelling ►

REMINDER Penn Sea League entries will only be accepted from the match organiser or officials of the club concerned at least eight weeks in advance. If results are not returned to Sea Angler within a month of the event, the event will be declared void for Penn points.

LEADER BOARD UP TO 25TH JULY 2022

Saul Page	Deal	57
Joe Wales	Shoreham	53
Darren Bond	Lancing	52
Shane Russell	Old Colwyn	51
Ben Price	Holyhead	46
Ben Bradstock	Honiton	42
Joe Plumstead	Pevensey Bay	33
Keith Smith	Blyth	30
Rob Tuck	Holland on Sea	30
Gary Medler	Great Yarmouth	29
George Smith	Grimsby	29
Neil Cutler	Gateshead	29
Paul Smith	South Shields	29
Paul Whelan	Ballybrack	29
Andrew Dugdale	Peel	27
Ben Arnold	Brighton	27
Julian Shambrook	Torquay	26
Alan Price	Rhyl	24
Chris Read	Cardiff	24
Darren Newland	Ryde	24
Richard Yates	St Mar Bay	24
Simon Drayton	Gainsborough	23
Wayne McGilloway	Greenfield	22
Bill Lindfield	Greasby	21
Dan Mogridge	Portsmouth	21
Philip A Lee	Sussex	21
Steve Swan	Herne Bay	21
James Madsen	Clevedon	20
Steve Smyth	Cardiff	20
Billy Johnson	Deal	18
Henry Randell	Bodham	18
Paul Harrison	Aldeburgh	18
Tony (Bob) Roberts	Holyhead	17
Dave Llewelyn	Barry	16
Dave Shorthouse	Kettering	16
Gavin Owen	Consett	16
Jane Cantwell	Ireland	16
Jimmy Price	Abergele	16
Louie Smith	Deal	16
Phil Arliss	Filey	16
Steve Dixon	Seaham	16
Ben Shepherd	Maryport	15
Mark Pinder	Ipswich	15
Paul Medd	Peterborough	15
Andy Bates	Louth	14
Julian French	Brighton	14
Nicky Robson	Wallsend	14
Tom Wells	Deal	14
Fon Owen	Anglesey	13
Michael Laycock	Workington	13
Nick Snow	Bristol	13
Steve Gibson	Withernsea	13
Steve Potts	Gosforth	13
Allan Beale	Middlesborough	12

Brian Harland	Whitby	12
Colin Crosby	Hastings	12
Nathan Elliott	Dover	12
Ne Charlesworth	Hornsea	12
Shaun Tucker	Swansea	12
Alan Combe	Kirkcaldy	11
Chung Ho'Shing	Sheffield	11
Jim Morris	Chester	11
Mike Coates	Hull	11
Alby Allan	S Shore SAC	10
Ben Richards	Ramsey	10
Callum Richardson	Preston	10
Chris Isaac	Llanelli	10
Claire Loder	Cwmbran	10
Dave Chidzoy	Bridport	10
Joe Perry	Liverpool	10
Kevin Lewis	Dundee	10
Lloyd Summer	Bargoed	10
Matt Pitter	Southampton	10
Mike Larkin	Barrow	10
Sam Collier	Deal	10
Carl Champion	Swansea	9
Chris Equall	Cardiff	9
Gareth Griffiths	Bar in Furness	9
Gary Wood	Holyhead	9
Kenny McCoy	Sunderland	9
Mark Colman	Hornsea	9
Mark Quirk	IOM	9
Matt Newman	Chepstow	9
Paul Stanley	Bristol	9
Rich Hughes	Anglesey	9
Richie Taylor	Penarth	9
Chris Horn	Kirkcaldy	8
Chris Jones	Porthcawl	8
Chris Roberts	IOM	8
Daniel Eagle	Leiston	8
Jason Brown	Bridgwater	8
Justin Bird	Newport	8
Malcolm Stote	Lymington	8
Mike Rose	3 Counties	8
Paul Bonner	West Kirby	8
Robbie Taylor	Deal	8
Steve Chadwick	Llanrumney	8
Adrian Ford	Weston-s-M	7
David O'Sullivan	Tralee	7
Fiachra Cronin	Tralee Bay	7
Franco Attanasio	Saundersfoot	7
Gerald John	Caerphilly	7
Ian Dancey	Waterlooville	7
Ivor Smith	Rogerstone	7
Lee Smith	Hull	7
Mark Cowell	Llantwit Major	7
Paul Garbutt	Skelton	7
Sandy Wason	Ayr	7

Simon Hogan	Maryport	7
Aidan O'Halloran	Lisdoonvarna	6
Andrew Hutchings	Cardiff	6
Brett Cotter	London	6
Brogan Bayford	Bristol	6
Daniel Crump	Barry	6
Don Cook	Barry	6
Graham Adams	Shotley	6
Ian Nelson	Grimsby	6
Kris Lindsay	Holyhead	6
Mark Rogers	Maidstone	6
Nigel Putbrace	Cardiff	6
Noel Fogarty	Dublin	6
Paul Short	Guisborough	6
Steve Adams	Chelmondiston	6
Tommy Tate	Sunderland	6
Anton James	Portsmouth	5
Billy Potter		5
Brett Bartram	Barton	5
Darren Jones	Rhyl	5
Dave Pinchbeck	Dartford	5
David G Hutchinson	Morecambe	5
Ian Bowell	Ipswich	5
James Lane	Weymouth	5
John Jones	Llanfairfechan	5
Keith Warren	Clevedon	5
Lewis Clark	Rochford	5
Paul Stevens	Worthing	5
Roy Tapper	Cardiff	5
Stuart Cresswell	Ayr	5
Stuart Littlewood	Onchan	5
Andy Pasfield	Dundee	4
Chris O'Sullivan	Tralee	4
Dave Lane	Weymouth	4
Garry Hughes	Colwyn Bay	4
Ian Hewitt	Blackpool	4
Jason Banham	Ipswich	4
Jeff Fisk	Bournemouth	4
Karl Wiepcke	Goxhill	4
Kelly Jay Carter	Sussex	4
Kevin Martland	New Brighton	4
Lee Caley	Woodbridge	4
Mark Davies	Wrexham	4
Mark Griffen	Nantwich	4
Michael Cox		4
Paul Denholm	Grimsby	4
Phil Thomas	Bath	4
Tom Ryder	Worthing	4
Tony Burnham	Cleethorpes	4
Wayne Leason	Hull	4
Adam Johnson	South Shields	3
Andy Reeves	Sheerness	3
Dai Loder	Cwmbran	3
Damien Evans		3
Dave Cave	Holyhead	3
Ian Ashcroft	IOM	3
Jay Cityzen	Blackpool	3

Jimmy Connell	Glasgow	3	Norman Bickers	Ipswich	2
John Waugh	Wallasey	3	Peter Evans	Swansea	2
Neil Marsh	Herne Bay	3	Rex Palmer	Hastings	2
Neil Wilkinson	Maryport	3	Richard Gormley	Courtown	2
Richard Burt	Clacton	3	Scott Richardson	Goxhill	2
Rob Marshall	Taunton	3	Sean Carley	Manapia	2
Shane Giles		3	Sean Ivory	SA Ireland	2
Sheren Qullam	IOM	3	Steve Bonner	Wallasey	2
Simon Pattinson	Rosyth	3	Steve Davis	Bedlington	2
Steve Moffatt	Liverpool	3	Terry Hartnell	Axminster	2
Steven Bonner	Liverpool	3	Tom James	Colwyn Bay	2
Stuart Dewhurst	Preston	3	Tony Baxter	Clay-le-Moors	2
Tony Smith	Swansea	3	Tony Irwin	Bristol	2
Adrian Bordianu	Taverham	2	Trevor Back	Sheerness	2
Adrian Cooper	Grimsby	2	Trevor Barnett	Blackpool	2
Alan Harrison	Liverpool	2	Trevor Cousens	Bearsted	2
Allan Hughes	Holyhead	2	Troy Francis	Killarney	2
Amy Tappenden	Rochford	2	Andy Young	Llanelli	1
Ben Stockley		2	Andy Young	Lancaster	1
Braydon Aldous	Ipswich	2	Cameron Turner	Felixstowe	1
Brian McKenzie	Doncaster	2	Charlie Needham	Heacham	1
Carl Edwards	Bootle	2	Colin Dunn	Conwy	1
Chris Snow	Worthing	2	Daniel Parker	Wallasey	1
Chris Spall	Westleton	2	Dave Dobbie	Kirkcaldy	1
Ciaran Fogarty	Dunn Brinn	2	David Wells	IOM	1
Colin Holmes	Arbroath	2	Harry Coxhead	Portland	1
Darren Brooks	Hastings	2	John Austin	Ipswich	1
Darren Cramer	Southampton	2	Jordan Hunter	Sunderland	1
Darren Stevens	Bristol	2	Lee Thornton	Southport	1
Dave Hutchinson	Blackpool	2	Mark Gooch	Lowestoft	1
David G Hutchinson	Morcombe	2	Mike Horn	Kirkcaldy	1
Dave Morrell	Colwyn Bay	2	Mike Watts	Fakenham	1
Dewi Williams	Pwllheli	2	Nelu Serban	London	1
Garry Hutson	Cleethorpes	2	Oliver Yallop	Colchester	1
John Delaney	Fareham	2	Paul McIntyre	Jarrow	1
Keith Mumby	Grimsby	2	Phillip Thomas	Bath	1
Lee Brimfield		2	Steve Liddle	Williton	1
Liam Roper	Aldeburgh	2			
Luke Mooring	Dover	2			
Mark Ward	Ipswich	2			
Martin Humphries	Dover	2			
Martin Jenkins	Dover	2			
Matt Frost	Woodbridge	2			
Mick Snelling	Selsey	2			
Ned Fitzpatrick	Kerry	2			



See issue
614 for July
and August
winners



HOW IT WORKS

■ With £10,000 in tackle prizes spread over the two divisions, points, based on entries, are awarded to the top three, section winners and captors of the largest fish caught in each designated Penn match. Penn also awards a prize of a Spinfisher fixed-spool reel to the angler scoring the most points in matches shown in each issue. If there is a tie, the winner will be the angler whose total is from the greatest number of results and is then chosen on merit by the editor. An angler can win only one reel during the year. To win a prize you must be registered with the Penn Sea League – supply your name, address, phone and email. Send fixtures, results and league registration by email to Ian Bowell: ian.bowell@icloud.com

far and wide to support the event. The fishing was patchy, zone c proving the best zone this year, taking the top 3 places, however a very good number of hounds were landed all along the 3 zones and safely returned, along with some absolute belters, lots over 100cm in length and Nathan Elliot from Dover landed two hounds over 120cm, biggest 124cm. Also caught were flounders, bass, rays, eels.
■ **Result:** 1st Nathan Elliott, Dover, 9 fish, 104lb 15oz, zone C (6); 2nd Brett Bartram, Barton, 10 fish 90lb 3 1/2oz, zone B (5); 3rd Kelly Jay Carter, Sussex, 6 fish 63lb 13 1/4oz, zone A (4).

10 PENARTH HOLIDAY OPEN Penarth, 107 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Dai Llewellyn, Barry, with two conger eels for 5.23kg (10); 2nd Richie Taylor, Penarth, with a smoothhound of 4kg which was also heaviest fish (9); 3rd Brendan Davies, Penarth, with two conger eels for 2.84kg (not registered).

10: OWEN DAVIES MEMORIAL MATCH Loughor Estuary, 65 anglers

■ **Result:** Heaviest bass, 1st Carl Champion Swansea 2510g (6); 2nd Paul Hartnoll 129kg (Not registered); 3rd Colin Butler 1095 (Not registered).

9: COLWYN BAY VICTORIA SEA ANGLERS SUMMER SERIES 2ND LEG Pwllheli, 20 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Rich Hughes, Holyhead, peg 2, 16 fish 233cm (2); 2nd Gary Wood, Holyhead, peg 5, 11 fish 166cm (1); 3rd Alan Price, Rhyl, peg 8, 12 fish 160cm. Longest fish; Gary Wood, Holyhead, 26cm bass.

9: GERRY'S SEA LEAGUE Knot End Beach, 17 anglers

Despite low numbers it was a good match with smoothhound, flounders, eels and bass making up the bags.

■ **Result:** 1st David G Hutchinson, Morecambe, 17 fish 848cm (1); Tony Baxter, Clay-le-Moore, 12 fish 609cm; 3rd Peter Wilkinson, Maryport, 11 fish 526cm. Biggest round fish 86cm hound caught by Neil Wilkinson. Biggest flatfish was 35cm flounder caught by Tony Baxter.

9: HOOKERS BAIT'S SUMMER OPEN Five Bar Gate, 41 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st Ian Hewitt, Blackpool 356cm (4); Stuart Dewhurst, Preston, 319cm (3); 3rd Trevor Barnett, Blackpool, 278cm (2) who also landed the biggest fish of the match, 120cm smoothhound.

9: SOUTHERN LEAGUE ROUND 7 OF 12 & OPEN

Lee on Solent, 56 anglers

■ **Result:** 1st, Billy Potter, 17lb 15oz (5); 2nd, Ben Bradstock, Honiton, 16lb 5oz, (4); 3rd, Joe Wales, Shoreham, 15lb 10z (3); biggest fish was a 12lb 6oz thornback ray landed by Bed Bradstock.

SEPTEMBER

- **10:** Southern League round 9 of 12 & open, Hayling/Southbourne, 9am-2pm, pegged, measure & return, undersize fish count as 10z, £15 match entry, £5 pools, £10 pair, team of five free, 2022 League entry £25, booking ends one hour before start, book only, Darren: 07919 073232, Mike: 07983 579596, Ian: 07736 004714 or Ant: 07775 691916. southernleagueandopens@gmail.com
- **10:** Colwyn Bay Victoria Sea Anglers Summer series 4th leg, North Shore, Llandudno, 7-11pm, Darren Jones: 07595 375663
- **10:** Filey Fishing Centenary Festival, 2-6pm, heaviest fish match, weigh in by 7pm, Filey playing fields association. adriancolling66@gmail.com
- **10-11:** Northern Ireland Federation of Sea Anglers, 2 day open and home nations championships. Port Salon beach and River Roe Estuary, £50 entry plus federation membership of £5. All enquiries to Harry Mackee nifederationofseaanglers@gmail.com
- **11:** Filey Fishing Centenary Festival North of England Cod championship, 10-4pm, weigh in by 5pm, Filey playing fields association. adriancolling66@gmail.com
- **11:** Welsh FSA East Region Shore League round 6 & open, Cold Knap & Porthkerry, Ivor Smith: 07854 829590.
- **17:** Anglesey Match Anglers Open, Holyhead breakwater, 11-4pm, £20 per peg, guaranteed first prize of £500 (if 100 pegs sold), 120 peg limit, 4 zones, Continental pay-out, Top 4 overall, Zone prizes, (overall winners not included), Longest fish overall, longest in each zone, most species, longest pollack, wrasse, pouting, smallest fish, junior open on the inside wall the same day, free entry.

- **17:** Samalite Chesil League round 9 of 12, Masonic, 7pm-midnight, best nine results from 12, pre-book only, Dave Lane: 07977 132951, lanedc@talktalk.net
- **17:** The Scarborough Open Angling Championship, fishing 2-6pm, entry £10, for further details contact Carole at carole1768@hotmail.com
- **18:** Scarborough Angling Club Hospital Challenge Bowl, fishing 11.00- 5pm, entry £10, for further details contact Carole at carole1768@hotmail.com
- **18:** Scottish Federation of Sea Anglers, round 7 Erskine, Max 50 Pegs, £15 adults £5 juniors. Contact Mike: 07933 003985 or Chris: 07872 944807.
- **18:** Anglers Corner 2022 West Wales National Sea League, Llangennith Beach, 9-1pm, meet Hillend Car Park 7.30am, pegged, zoned, length match, 1 rod, 3 hooks, £20 entry, 100 per cent cash paid back, prizes for 1st, 2nd 3rd overall, zone winners and longest fish. Teams of 5 entry is free, no money paid in or out, just bragging rights and a trophy to keep for the year as West Wales Champions. Christopher Isaac: 07880 311014 or email c19aac@gmail.com
- **PENN PLUS 23-25:** Anyfish Anywhere Two-Day open, pre-book only, Llandudno, Julian Shambrook: 01803 213555.
- **24:** Scarborough Angling Club, The Mick Hillaby Memorial Match, fishing 2-6pm, entry £10, for further details contact Carole at carole1768@hotmail.com
- **25:** Pleasure anglers and kayakers Association Open, Swansea Breakwater 15.00-19.00pm, booking in at MacDonalds 1 hour before, entry £12 plus optional £3 pool, fishing to length, longest bag and longest single fish, duthiealan@aol.com
- **25:** Scarborough Angling Club, All England Codling Championship, fishing 11-5pm, entry £20 for further details contact Carole at carole1768@hotmail.com

- **25:** Hastings & St Leonards AA Hollingsworth Trophy open, 8.30am-1.30pm, lug, fish, squid baits only, Colin Crosby: 01424 430120. colinmichael123@gmail.com

OCTOBER

- **PENN FINAL 1:** Chesil Beach Ferrybridge, qualifiers by invitation, Ian Bowell ian.bowell@samf-uk.co.uk, or 07789651191.
- **1-2:** Welsh Bass and Flounder Festival, Loughor estuary, Brian: 07970 404522 or sales@countrypets.co.uk
- **2:** Chesil Cod Rover Abbotsbury and Chesil centre, booking and weighing in at Weymouth Angling Club HQ, Dave Lane: 07977 132951, lanedc@talktalk.net
- **2:** Hastings & St Leonards AA Coronation Cup open, noon-5pm, lug, fish, squid baits only, Colin Crosby: 01424 430120. colinmichael123@gmail.com
- **2:** Penarth SAC open, Penarth, Bob Galley: 02920 706995.
- **2:** North West Association of Sea Anglers, Town Hall/Maddocks. Fishing 08.30-12.30pm. Book on 7.00-07.30am Pre-book: 07572 593272.
- **5:** Colwyn Bay Victoria Sea Anglers Summer series 5th leg Penmearmawr, 6.30-10.30pm, Darren Jones: 07595 375663
- **8-9:** Mark Rogers invitation match, Princess Parade, Hythe, Saturday 9-2, Sunday 10-3, book-in Fountain Pub Hythe, Friday evening/Saturday morning, £1000 first prize plus zone, biggest fish and day prizes.

Got an event? Contact ian.bowell@icloud.com

LONDON BRIDGE *

SEPTEMBER					
1	THU	05.37	6.74	17.51	6.77
2	FRI	06.11	6.50	18.26	6.64
3	SAT	06.48	6.24	19.08	6.47
4	SUN	07.33	5.98	20.01	6.23
5	MON	08.33	5.70	21.16	5.98
6	TUE	10.06	5.55	22.53	6.02
7	WED	11.45	5.77	***	***
8	THU	00.18	6.36	13.03	6.24
9	FRI	01.30	6.81	14.01	6.67
10	SAT	02.26	7.15	14.50	6.96
11	SUN	03.13	7.32	15.32	7.14
12	MON	03.56	7.36	16.10	7.26
13	TUE	04.35	7.31	16.47	7.31
14	WED	05.12	7.15	17.21	7.22
15	THU	05.45	6.86	17.54	7.00
16	FRI	06.16	6.52	18.29	6.68
17	SAT	06.48	6.18	19.06	6.31
18	SUN	07.23	5.85	19.52	5.91
19	MON	08.12	5.51	20.57	5.55
20	TUE	09.24	5.25	22.24	5.45
21	WED	11.06	5.33	23.48	5.73
22	THU	***	***	12.25	5.79
23	FRI	00.52	6.19	13.18	6.25
24	SAT	01.41	6.55	14.02	6.57
25	SUN	02.21	6.75	14.39	6.75
26	MON	02.55	6.87	15.13	6.89
27	TUE	03.29	6.97	15.45	7.02
28	WED	04.02	7.03	16.18	7.10
29	THU	04.36	6.98	16.52	7.09
30	FRI	05.11	6.81	17.27	6.98

Copyright reserved: Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory.

TIDES FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

OCTOBER					
1	SAT	05.46	6.54	18.06	6.78
2	SUN	06.24	6.22	18.51	6.51
3	MON	07.11	5.90	19.50	6.19
4	TUE	08.15	5.58	21.12	5.95
5	WED	09.55	5.46	22.45	6.07
6	THU	11.35	5.80		
7	FRI	00.09	6.47	12.48	6.33
8	SAT	01.16	6.91	13.42	6.76
9	SUN	02.07	7.16	14.27	7.00
10	MON	02.51	7.22	15.06	7.14
11	TUE	03.29	7.21	15.41	7.26
12	WED	04.04	7.17	16.15	7.32
13	THU	04.37	7.05	16.49	7.24
14	FRI	05.08	6.83	17.23	7.00
15	SAT	05.36	6.53	17.56	6.65
16	SUN	06.05	6.22	18.30	6.28
17	MON	06.36	5.92	19.12	5.90
18	TUE	07.18	5.59	20.06	5.55
19	WED	08.18	5.26	21.30	5.36
20	THU	10.08	5.16	23.01	5.60
21	FRI	11.40	5.57		
22	SAT	00.06	6.04	12.37	6.06
23	SUN	00.58	6.43	13.22	6.45
24	MON	01.40	6.70	14.01	6.73
25	TUE	02.18	6.88	14.37	6.94
26	WED	02.55	6.99	15.14	7.11
27	THU	03.33	7.04	15.51	7.22
28	FRI	04.12	6.98	16.30	7.21
29	SAT	04.50	6.80	17.11	7.08
30	SUN	04.29	6.52	16.54	6.84
31	MON	05.11	6.21	17.45	6.54

* TIDAL VARIATIONS FROM LONDON			
Wick	-2.29	Swansea	+4.42
Lossiemouth	-2.00	Milford Haven	+4.37
Aberdeen	-0.18	Fishguard	+5.44
Stonehaven	-0.08	Aberystwyth	-6.11
Cockenzie	+0.47	Barmouth	-5.45
Berwick	+0.54	Holyhead	-3.28
Blyth	+1.46	Menai Bridge	-3.08
North Shields	+1.47	Colwyn Bay	-2.47
Hartlepool	+1.59	Southport	-2.55
Whitby	+2.20	Blackpool	-2.50
Scarborough	+2.30	Morecambe	-2.33
Filey Bay	+2.45	Barrow (Ramsden)	-2.28
Bridlington	+2.58	Whitehaven	-2.30
Skegness	+4.29	Kirkcudbright Bay	-2.25
Hunstanton	+4.44	Girvan	-1.51
Cromer	+4.56	Ayr	-1.44
Lowestoft	-4.23	Lamlash	-1.45
Aldeburgh	-2.53	Greenock	-1.19
Felixstowe pier	-2.23	Oban	+4.12
Clacton	-2.00	Gairloch	+5.16
Southend-on-Sea	-1.22	Ullapool	+5.36
Herne Bay	-1.24	Belfast	-2.47
Margate	-1.52	Douglas	-2.44
Deal	-2.38		
Dover	-2.53		
Dungeness	-3.05		
Eastbourne	-2.48	IRELAND	
Newhaven	-2.47	Dun Laoghaire	-2.09
Brighton	-2.51	Arklow	-4.41
Worthing	-2.36	Rosslare harbour	
Portsmouth	-2.29		
Ryde	-2.29	Baginbun Head	+3.53
Southampton *	-2.53	Ballycotton	+3.45
Poole (Entrance) *		Courtmacsherry	+3.32
-5.09		Baltimore	+3.35
Bournemouth *	-5.09	Bantry	+3.15
Swanage *	-5.19	Fenit pier	+3.13
Portland	+4.57	Kilrush	+4.02
Torquay	+4.40	Galway	+3.36
Dartmouth	+4.25	Clifden Bay	+3.41
Plymouth	+4.05	Westport Bay	+3.57
Fowey	+3.53	Sligo harbour	+4.25
Falmouth	+3.30	Killybegs	+4.21
Newquay	+3.32	Rathmullan	+4.43
Padstow	+3.45		
Barnstaple	+4.30	NORTHERN IRELAND	
Weston-super-Mare		Belfast	-2.47
+5.05		Portrush	+5.48
Cardiff (Penarth)	+5.15	Red Bay	-2.41
Barry	+5.08	Carrickfergus	-2.42



FEEL the FURY



NEW RELEASE

Boasting a truly striking livery, high modulus carbon blank, and quality SeaGuide guides and reel seat, the AKIOS FURY continues to be amongst the most popular 3 piece rods on the market.

Available in 4.2m/14ft and 4.5m/15ft lengths, and now, **NEW FOR 2022** the **FURY FX435 SRS** with its sliding reel seat and carbon power tip section has been unleashed!

If you haven't already done so, get your hands on one and **FEEL THE FURY!**

FURY FX420 - 4.2m/14' - £149.99 SSP

FURY FX450 - 4.5m/15' - £158.99 SSP

FURY FX435 SRS - 4.35m/14.5' - £159.99 SSP

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE VISIT:

AKIOSFISHINGTACKLE.COM

OR CONTACT US:

EMAIL: INFO@AKIOSFISHINGTACKLE.COM

TEL: 0161-4772580

01524 422146
www.gerrysfishing.com



FREE
POSTAGE
OVER £99
MAINLAND UK

Spread the cost with **V12 Finance** Finance available from 1-5years
Also use **Klarna** to make 3 x 0% payments

10,000 sq ft shop with best display in the uk, "Anglers Serving Anglers"

Century

anyfish anywhere



DAIWA

PENN

SHIMANO

IRONIXPRO

TenRyu

& MANY MORE!

HARRISON TORRIX BEACHCASTER SURF RODS



Made in the UK. We've been quietly selling these range of rods for some time now and have had fantastic customer feedback. With the demise of other top-quality UK built rods these easily compare with the best around. The Torrix rods are made from very high-quality high modulus UD carbon and a diamond-cut tapered joint, with parallel butts. All rods come finished in ATC SS Delta guides, ATC reel seat, Japanese shrink tubing. Or can be custom built at Gerry's to your requirements!

GERRY'S HIGHLY RECOMMEND THESE RODS!

Torrix P1- 14ft cast 3-5oz, 2 sections weight 500gms and 2.5mm butt **£449.99**
suitable for clean beaches and estuary's

Torrix P2- 14ft cast 4-6oz, 2 sections weight 640gms and 22.5mm butt **£449.99**
great allrounder, suit most fishing situations

Torrix P3- 14ft cast 5-7oz, 2 sections weight 783gms and 23mm butt **£449.99**
Long casting powerful rock and heavy sea work, with stiff tip for standing firm in a wind or strong tide.



Torrix Q3- 14ft cast 5-7oz, 2 sections weight 740gms and 23mm butt **£449.99**
design for a rod for anywhere multi purpose, mix ground to rocky shores still maintaining a great tip!

PENN FATHOM LEVER DRAG SALE!

Fathom 15LD 305yds 15lb mono or loads of braid norm **£184.99 Gerry's £139.99**
Fathom 30LD 325yds 30lb mono or loads of braid norm **£199.99 Gerry's £149.99**

Superb reels with 5 s/s ball bearings and Penn's bomb proof build
Only a few get one whilst stocks last!



PENN SPINNING REEL

PENN SLAMMER IV8

3500 norm **£254.99 Gerry's £189.99**
4500 norm **£254.99 Gerry's £189.99**
6500 norm **£299.99 Gerry's £239.99**
8500 high speed 5.31 norm **£354.99 Gerry's £279.99**



SPECIAL OFFER

NEW SONIK SURF RODS



Sonik Vader XS Beach Rods

A range of incredible value surf rods, the blanks are well balanced with a progressive casting action and excellent bite registration. Ideal for clean to mixed ground beaches, it is suitable for a variety of species from Plaice fishing at range to bullying Rays from the depths.

Multi modulus carbon fibre blanks with progressive casting action

- Zirconium Oxide Guides • Ringing pattern compatible with both fixed spool and multiplier reels • Anti-Frap tip ring
- High-quality DPS Reel fitting

13ft 4-6oz 2pc only **£79.99**

14ft 4-6oz 2pc only **£84.99**

15ft 4-6oz 3pc only **£89.99**



Sonik SKS Black Surfs

New designed for 2022/23 this brings a whole new meaning to value for money, these SKS Blacks have top notch rings, they are super slim made from top quality carbon with white tips and movable reels seats. Nothing compares to these rods at this price!
11ft 8" MFS Bass 2-4oz+ outstanding at £89.99

13ft MFS casts 4-6oz £119.99

14ft MFS casts 5-7oz £129.99

TRONIX AXIA PRO 10000 SURF REELS



Tronix Axia Pro 10000 Surf Reels £49.99

Just look at the features for under £50

- 5+1 s/steel bearings • 4.9-1 ratio
- Graphite corrosion free body
- Precise drag system
- Cap:280yds x 20lb mono

SPECIAL OFFER: Buy with any Sonik rod and get FREE surf line valued £8.99

GRUNDEN'S SMOCKS

GRUNDENS FULL SHARE BREATHABLE SMOCKS £129.99

Colours: Grey/Orange or Dark Grey/Light Grey
These are some of the best around, originally designed for commercial use, rugged material feels nice on with movability

Gerry's Highly Recommend this product

100% Nylon 320d Shell Fabric with 2.5L 10K/10K PU Film Lamination
Shingled Neoprene Cuff
Corrosion Resistant Zipper and Hardware
Internal Cord Routing on Hood Adjustment



SUNSET SURF RODS

Every rod unbelievable in its price bracket, lightweight balanced, made from top grade carbon K style rings, all will do fix or multipliers with movable reel fittings

SOLICA 14FT SURF 4-8OZ 3PC

SLIM FAST LIGHTWEIGHT, MOVABLE FITTINGS AND K GUIDES
NORM **£199.99** **GERRY'S £119.99**

KEMICA PRO 14FT 3PC THIS IS BRILLIANT, GREAT ALL ROUNDER 4-8OZ SLIM, GREAT TIP NORM **£299.99**

SAVE £100 NOW £199.99

MYTICA PRO 14FT 3PC THIS CASTS A LONG WAY, SLIM LITE STIFFER TIP 4-8OZ NORM **£399.99, SAVE £150**

NOW £249.99

VERY SPECIAL OFFER!



NEW DAIWA KENZAKI SURF RODS

As you would expect from Daiwa a new rod that will take some beating at this price, they look and fish like a rod twice the price!

UK built with a choice of 2 lengths 13ft 6" cast 4-7oz and 14ft 2" cast 4-8oz both with great tips that won't bounce around in the tide but as most Daiwa have exceptional bite registration and cast great. Movable reel seats and K Style guides (braid friendly) and hybrid design suitable for multi or fix spool reels. Gerry's know these rods will be a sure-fire winner.

13ft 6" only £219.99

14ft 2" only £229.99

They Are Back!
One of the best rods we have ever sold



THE UK'S NUMBER 1 NORWAY SPECIALIST!

For the full range: www.gerrysfishing.com

Gerry's can help and advise with anglers that specialise in Norway and overseas angling. We have anglers that have been to many destinations, just call 01524 422146 Option 1 - ask for advice!

"ANGLERS SERVING ANGLERS"

